



Statue By Edmund G. Shumpert

Photo By David E. Wentworth, Jr.

## **“The Ultimate Challenge”**

### **CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH MISCELLANEOUS HISTORICAL DATA**

Compiled by  
Alicia Wentworth  
City Historian  
Retired City Clerk

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# ELECTION STATISTICS FROM 1958

## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1990 - 1994

G - General  
S - Special  
I - Initiative  
R - Recall  
or Referendum

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ELECTION TYPE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTER</u>	<u>TOTAL VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
04/07/58	G	General Municipal	3,713	2,357		12
06/09/59	G	General Municipal Master Plan-Land Use	3,652	1,794		
04/12/60	G	General Municipal	4,043	2,457		14
04/10/62	G	General Municipal	6,875	3,831		12
04/30/63	S	Special Election Water Revenue Bonds	11,149	2,059		
04/14/64	G	General Municipal (Res. drawn up but not on ballot re: Police Chief Appointive	15,963	6,757		24
11/64	S	Special Election  City Attorney Appointive  Chief of Police Appointive		41,254	Y- 5,811 N-14,813 Y- 8,751 N-11,879	(FAILED) (FAILED)
08/65	S	Special Election  Mayor & 6 Members	22,947	6,907	Y- 2,871 N- 4,033	(FAILED)
01/66	S	Special Election  <u>Charter Revision:</u> (Included 7 Council & Chief of Police Appointive)	24,370	4,365	Y- 3,255 N- 1,108	
04/66	G	General Municipal	26,205	8,713		
04/68	G	General Municipal	33,290	8,808		
		<u>Amendments:</u> Attorney Appointive  Treasurer Appointive  City Clerk Appointive			Y- 2,614 N- 5,954 Y- 2,278 N- 6,155 Y- 1,386 N- 7,086	(FAILED) (FAILED) (FAILED)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ELECTION TYPE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTER</u>	<u>TOTAL VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
11/74	S	Special Municipal	72,088	42,336		
		<u>Proposition:</u>				
		W-Repeal Real Estate Transfer Tax & Impose Trash Collection Fee			W-Y-10,522 N-31,814	
05/75	I	Initiative	56,195	18,808		
		Real Estate Property Tax Prohibited by Charter			Y-14,264 N- 4,544	
04/76	G	General Municipal	61,070	13,462		17%
11/76	S	Special Municipal	72,410	46,250		
		<u>Measures:</u>				
		Require affirmative 3/4 vote			Y-42,915	
		Increase Taxes			N-13,905	
		Require affirmative 5 votes			Y-36,772	
		Increase Taxes			N-17,944	
04/78	G	General Municipal	77,674	15,905		20%
06/78	S	Special Municipal	80,683	52,596		
		<u>Propositions:</u>				
		D-"Housekeeping" changes in Charter			D- Y-24,200 N-15,847	
		E-City Council - Limit two Consecutive terms			E- Y-33,775 N- 9,507	
		F-Compensation for Councilmembers			F- Y-17,920 N-24,373	
		G-City Attorney - Appointive			G- Y- 9,071 N-34,478	(FAILED)
		H-City Clerk - Appointive			H- Y-10,372 N-33,144	(FAILED)
		J-City Treasurer - Appointive			J- Y- 9,043 N-34,642	(FAILED)
04/80	G	General Municipal	90,078	23,725		15%
06/80	S	Special Municipal	93,691	51,795		
		<u>Measures:</u>				
		Sales Tax Advisory			Y-34,912 N- 7,944	
		Low-Cost Housing			Y-25,011 N-16,809	
04/82	G	General Municipal	96,849	12,510		11.9%

Page 5 - Election Statistics from 1958

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ELECTION TYPE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTER</u>	<u>TOTAL VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
11/06/90	G	General Municipal Consolidated w/County	97,541	60,894		62.4%
		<u>Measures - Charter Amendments:</u>				
		C-Sale/Lease-Parks & Beaches Voter Initiated			C- Y-42,049 N-14,914	
		D-Sale/Lease-Parks & Beaches Council Initiated			D- Y-31,298 N-25,019	
		Councilmember Moulton-Patterson			34,873	
		Councilmember Winchell			32,059	
		Councilmember Robitaille			25,178	
		Councilmember Kelly			22,004	
		City Attorney Gail Hutton			30,116	
11/03/92	G	General Municipal Consolidated w/County	111,671	89,447		80.0%
		Councilmember Silva			32,473	
		Councilmember Leipzig			31,106	
		Councilmember Sullivan			27,545	
		City Treasurer Don Watson			57,603	
		City Clerk Connie Brockway			48,976	
11/08/94	G	General Municipal Consolidated w/County	103,363	68,048		65.8%
		Councilmember Bauer			21,967	
		Councilmember Dettloff			19,205	
		Councilmember Green			18,399	
		Councilman Garofalo			16,508	
		City Attorney Gail Hutton			40,499	
11/5/96	G	General Municipal Consolidated w/County	112,363	77,020		
		Councilmember Sullivan			27,029	
		Councilmember Julien			25,781	
		Councilmember Harmon			24,134	
		City Clerk Connie Brockway			49,691	
		City Treasurer Shari Freidenrich			43,613	
		Measure Initiative				
		J - Advisory - Sports Field Central Park			Y 32,064 N 36,760	
		K - Gym / related improvements Murdy Park			Y 33,059 N 35,727	
		L - Lighted Socker / softball fields, roller hockey Snackbar, parking, restrooms, & related improvements Central Park			Y 34,604 N 34,320	

# POPULATION

## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1909 - 3.57 SQUARE MILES

1992 - 27.7 SQUARE MILES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>
1960	October	Federal	11,492
1961	April	State Department of Finance	15,850
1962	April	State Department of Finance	24,700
	October	Federal	34,143
1963	April	State Department of Finance	42,300
	October	Federal	50,290
1964	April	State Department of Finance	57,104
	October	Federal	64,228
1965	April	State Department of Finance	68,900
	October	Federal	75,053
1966	April	State Department of Finance	79,400
	October	Federal	86,646
1967	April	State Department of Finance	90,300
	October	Federal	94,377
1968	April	State Department of Finance	99,000
	October	Federal	104,124
1969	April	State Department of Finance	109,600
	October	Federal	112,021
1970	April	State Department of Finance	116,400
	October	Federal	115,960
1971	April	State Department of Finance	126,900
1972	February	State Department of Finance	137,000
	November	State Department of Finance	143,500
1973	April	State Department of Finance	142,600
1974	February	State Department of Finance	143,325
1975	January	State Department of Finance	146,400
1976	January	State Department of Finance	152,148
1977	January	State Department of Finance	157,800
1978	January	State Department of Finance	161,300
1979	January	State Department of Finance	167,419
1980	January	State Department of Finance	172,200
	April	Federal	170,505
1981	January	State Department of Finance	173,327**
1982	January	State Department of Finance	175,007**
1983	January	State Department of Finance	176,370**
1984	January	State Department of Finance	176,329**
1985	January	State Department of Finance	176,156**
1986	January	State Department of Finance	177,988**
1987	January	State Department of Finance	178,788**
1988	January	State Department of Finance	178,260**
1989	January	State Department of Finance	178,896**
1990	January	State Department of Finance	181,115**
	January	Federal	181,519
1991	January	State Department of Finance	182,800**
1992	January	State Department of Finance	184,962**
1993	January	State Department of Finance	186,867
1994	January	State Department of Finance	189,159
1995	January	State Department of Finance	188,990
1996	January	State Department of Finance	187,800
1997	January	State Department of Finance	188,500

\*\* Revised Estimates, Department of Finance 1994



**PROPERTY TAX**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>ASSESSED VALUATION (25%)</u></b>	<b><u>TAX RATE</u></b> (per \$100 assessed valuation)
1962-1963	\$ 105,377,280	1.33
1963-1964	126,176,360	1.33
1964-1965	151,863,520	1.33
1965-1966	189,763,880	1.33
1966-1967	220,691,540	1.33
1967-1968	215,690,430	1.33
1968-1969	235,668,660	1.45
1969-1970	293,272,790	1.45
1970-1971	339,783,919	1.45
1971-1972	370,230,779	1.62
1972-1973	410,283,199	1.62
1973-1974	442,271,658	1.62
1974-1975	529,973,310	1.62
1975-1976	580,623,450	1.62
1976-1977	710,079,235	1.62
1977-1978	854,321,745	1.55
1978-1979	831,783,620	.1972
1979-1980	983,927,670	.1972
1980-1981	1,122,000,000	.1854

**ASSESSED VALUATION (100%)**

1981-1982	\$ 5,219,684,140	.04635
1982-1983	5,672,213,998	.05756
1983-1984	6,292,926,314	.05682
1984-1985	6,725,806,949	.05630
1985-1986	7,375,476,490	.05563
1986-1987	7,861,120,245	.05529
1987-1988	8,364,799,879	.05490
1988-1989	8,580,201,414	.05470
1989-1990	9,033,404,047	.05419
1990-1991	9,982,432,040	.05406
1991-1992	11,318,978,092	.05406
1992-1993	11,885,461,394	.05325
1993-1994	11,816,105,580	.05320
1994-1995	11,664,682,387	.04930
1995-1996	11,693,059,952	.04930
1996-1997	11,656,624,736	.04930

Page 2 - Mayors - City of Huntington Beach

<u>DATE ELECTED</u>	<u>TOTAL YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES ON COUNCIL</u>
04/19/69	1	26. N. John V. V. Green	04/66 - 04/74
04/21/70	1	Donald D. Shipley	04/64 - 04/76
04/19/71	1	27. George C. McCracken	04/68 - 04/72
04/17/72	1	Alvin M. Coen	04/66 - 04/78
04/16/73	1	28. Jerry A. Matney	04/68 - 04/76
04/15/74	1	Alvin M. Coen	04/66 - 04/78
04/21/75	1	29. Norma Brandel Gibbs	04/70 - 04/78
04/19/76	1	30. Harriett M. Wieder	04/74 - 04/78
04/18/77	1	31. Ronald R. Pattinson	04/76 - 12/84
04/17/78	7 mos.	32. Ron Shenkman	04/76 - 11/20/78 Resigned
11/20/78	5 mos.	Ronald R. Pattinson	04/76 - 12/84
04/16/79	1	33. Don MacAllister	04/78 - 11/86
04/19/80	1	34. Ruth S. Bailey	04/78 - 11/86
04/20/81	1	Ruth E. Finley	05/79 - 11/88
04/19/82	1	36. Robert P. Mandic, Jr.	04/78 - 11/86
04/18/83	7 mos.	Don MacAllister	04/78 - 11/86
11/21/83	1	37. Jack Kelly	04/80 - 11/86
12/03/84	1	Ruth S. Bailey	04/78 - 11/86
11/18/85	1	Robert P. Mandic, Jr.	04/78 - 11/86
12/01/86	2	Jack Kelly	04/80 - 11/88
11/16/87	1	38. John Erskine	12/86 - 12/90
12/05/88	1	39. Wes Bannister	12/86 - 12/90
11/20/89	1	40. Thomas Mays	12/86 - 12/90
12/03/90	1	41. Peter Green	12/84 - 12/91
12/02/91	1	42. Jim Silva	12/88 - 12/92
12/07/92	1	43. Grace Winchell	12/92 - 12/93
12/06/93	1	44. Linda Moulton-Patterson	11/90 - 11/94
12/05/94	1	45. Victor Leipzig	12/94 - 12/95
12/14/95		46. Dave Sullivan	12/95 - 12/96
12/02/96		47. Ralph Bauer	12/96 - 12/97

## COMPENSATION - CITY COUNCIL

\$ 25 month	Ordinance 236	Adopted 02/27/22
\$ 50 month	Ordinance 317	Adopted 04/09/28
\$125 month	Ordinance 902	Adopted 04/10/62
\$175 month	City Charter	since 1966

## EXPENSE ALLOWANCE

\$125 month	Ordinance No. 2079	08/18/76	
\$290 month	Ordinance No. 2566	07/19/82	w/adjustment
\$390 month	Ordinance No. 2566	07/19/83	Mayor w/adjustment
\$434 month	Mayor	FY 86/87	
\$323 month	Ordinance No. 2566	FY 86/87	Councilmembers w/adjustment
\$447 month	Mayor	FY 87/88	
\$333 month	Ordinance No. 2566	FY 87/88	Councilmembers w/adjustment
\$468 month	Mayor	FY 88/89	
\$349 month	Ordinance No. 2997	FY 88/89	Councilmembers w/adjustment*

## FRINGE BENEFITS

Ordinance No. 2079 - 08/18/76  
 Ordinance No. 2566 - 07/19/82

\* Consumer Price Index

# CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1926 - 1995

### Trustees

October 3, 1927 Charles J. Andrews appointed trustee to fill vacancy caused by death of Trustee Wharton.

### Council Council

November 16, 1926 Voting precincts established  
E Drew, Dunning, Harris, Mitchell

April 1926 IO Andrews, Mitchell, Shank, Harris, Boster  
E Mitchell, Harris  
R Ridenaur  
A Shank

1928 IO Andrews, Mitchell, Shank, Harris, Boster  
E Bowen, Butcher, Conrad

1930 IO Bowen, Butcher, Conrad, Mitchell, Harris  
E Stevens, King

1932 IO Butcher, Huston, Stevens, King, Conrad  
E Conrad, Huston, Marion  
R Houston

November 6, 1933 E Talbert - Special Election (Replaced Huston)

April 1934 IO Talbert, Gores, Stevens, King, Marion  
E Talbert, Warner, Chamness, Tovatt (2 yrs)

1936 IO Marion, Chamness, Warner, Tovatt, Talbert  
E Chamness, Henricksen, Morehouse

1938 IO Warner, Chamness, Talbert, Henricksen, Morehouse  
E McCallen, Talbert

1940 IO Morehouse, Chamness, Henricksen, Talbert, McCallen  
E Chamness, Morehouse, Grable

1942 IO Henricksen, Grable, Morehouse, Talbert, McCallen  
R Grable, Hawes (2 years)  
E Henricksen, Talbert

1944 IO Henricksen, Grable, Hawes, Morehouse, Talbert  
E Grable, Hawes, Bartlett

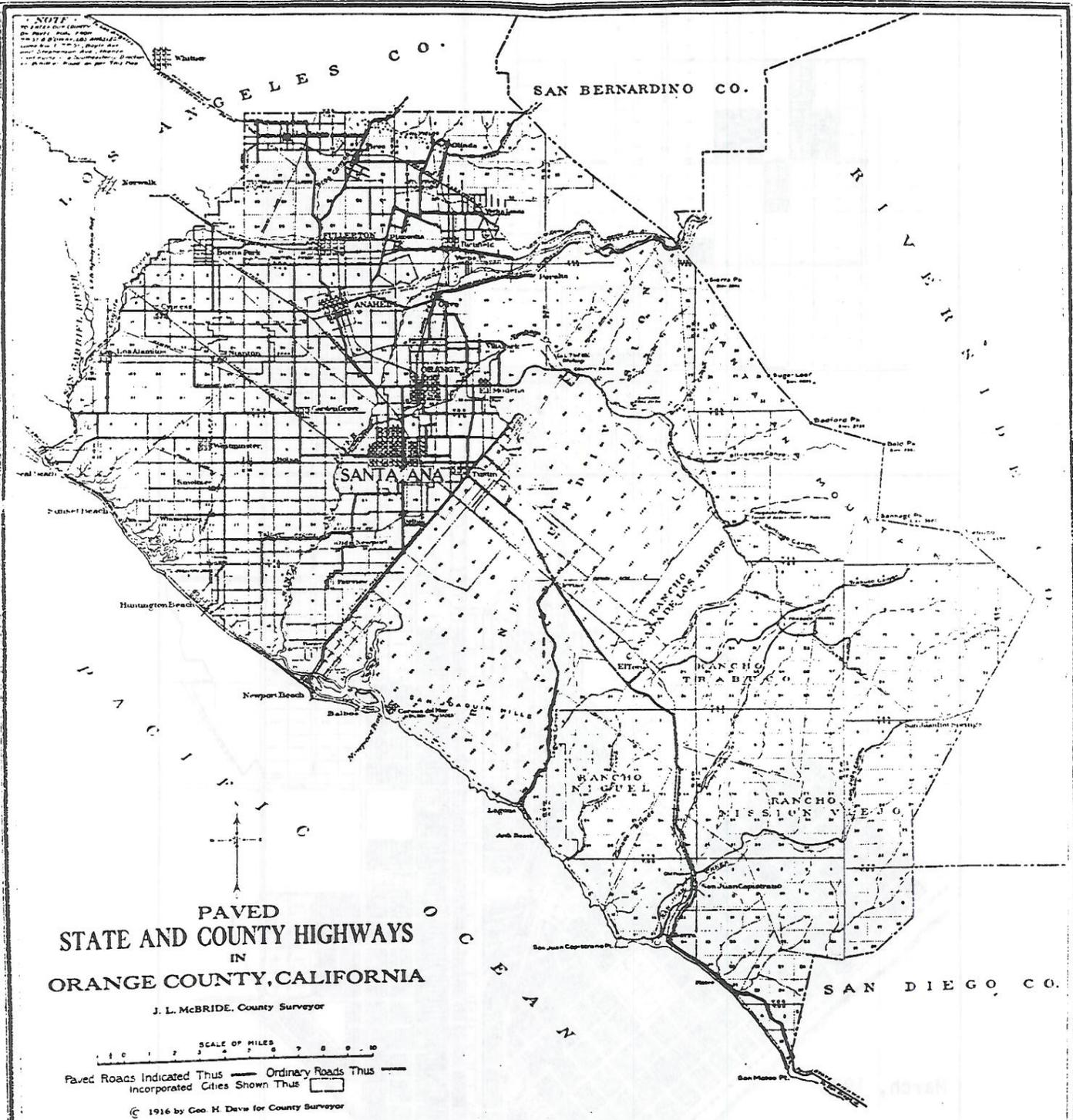
1946 IO Henricksen, Grable, Hawes, Bartlett, Talbert  
E Terry, Langenbeck

**Page 3 - City Councilmembers**

- 1980 IO Pattinson, Mandic, MacAllister, Thomas, Bailey, Yoder, Finley  
E Pattinson, Kelly, Finley
- 1982 IO Pattinson, Mandic, MacAllister, Thomas, Bailey, Finley, Kelly  
E Mandic, Bailey, MacAllister, Thomas
- November 1984 IO Pattinson, Mandic, MacAllister, Thomas, Bailey, Finley, Kelly  
E Finley, Kelly, Green
- 1986 IO Mandic, MacAllister, Thomas, Bailey, Finley, Kelly, Green  
E Mays, Erskine, Winchell, Bannister
- 1988 IO Erskine, Mays, Winchell, Bannister, Kelly, Green, Finley  
E Silva, Green, MacAllister
- 1990 IO Erskine, Mays, Green, Bannister, MacAllister, Silva, Winchell  
E Winchell, Moulton-Patterson, Robitaille, Kelly
- 1992 IO Robitaille, Moulton-Patterson, Winchell, Silva, Green, MacAllister, Kelly  
E Silva, Leipzig, Sullivan  
D Kelly  
A Bauer
- November 1994 IO Robitaille, Moulton-Patterson, Winchell, Silva, Bauer, Leipzig, Sullivan  
E Bauer, Green, Dettloff, Garofalo  
R Silva - Elected Board of Supervisors  
A Harman
- November 1996 IO Harmon, Leipzig, Bauer, Dettloff, Green, Garofalo, Sullivan  
E Sullivan, Julien, Harman

H. B. POLICE CHIEFS  
 (appointed and elected from 1909)  
 Police Department Established - 6/13/21

C. E. Wright - Marshal	2/17/09	8/16/09
A. G. Boone - Deputy Marshal	6/21/09	
C. Y. Sorenson - Marshal	1910	
E. L. Vincent - Marshal		2/1/14
Jack Tinsley - Marshal	2/2/14	11/7/27
Jake Reed - First Constable (Under Tinsley)		
Bannister - Constable (under Tinsley)		
R. Choat - Chief (appointed)	11/7/27	7/31/28
Charles D. Stewart - Chief (appointed)	8/1/28	12/14/31
Laverne F. Keller - Patrolman (appointed)	3/5/25	
Acting Police Chief (appointed)	12/14/31	4/19/34
George M. Gelzer - appointed Spl. Off.	10/22/28	
appointed Patrolman	3/4/29	
appointed Chief	4/20/34	4/20/36
Harvey Lester Grant - appointed Patrolman	4/7/30	
appointed Chief	4/20/36	
First Elected Chief	11/15/37	4/21/42
Donald Blossom - appointed Desk Clerk	6/28/34	
appointed Asst. Chief	7/1/40	
elected Chief (twice)	4/21/42	4/17/50
Ben Delaney - elected Chief (3 times)	4/17/50	10/8/58 (deceased)
Clinton Wright - appointed	11/3/58	4/16/62
Howard Robidoux - elected Chief	4/16/62	6/17/64 (deceased)
John Seltzer - appointed Patrolman	6/12/37	
appointed Chief (6/15/64)		
Acting)	7/15/64	7/31/68 ret. (deceased)
Earl Robitaille - appointed Chief	8/1/69	4/17/87 (retired)
Grover "Bill" Payne - appointed Chief	4/18/87	8/4/89 (retired)
Ronald Lowenberg - appointed Chief	9/25/89	



Orange County's Highway System includes 250 Miles of Paved Roads  
 Orange County Cities are Noted for the miles of Paved Streets within their Corporate Limits  
 Improved Highways are an Investment that Pays Enormous Dividends in too Many Ways to Enumerate

"Nature's Prolific Wonderland"  
**CLIMATE DE LUXE**  
 Orange County, California

**Total Soil and Oil Production for the Past Five Years**

	Soil	Oil & Natural Gas	Total
1916	\$25,494,323.00	\$15,280,000.00	\$40,774,323.00
1917	\$2,244,822.00	\$1,800,000.00	\$4,044,822.00
1918	\$0,910,500.00	\$2,500,000.00	\$3,410,500.00
1919	\$5,877,500.00	\$1,275,000.00	\$7,152,500.00
1920	\$9,462,000.00	\$9,300,000.00	\$18,762,000.00

In the smallest in area in Southern California, and is the richest County in soil Products in America  
 For additional reasons for living in SEMI-TROPIC Orange County, address Secretary Associated Chambers of Commerce of Orange County, Santa Ana, California

**Grand Total Production for Last Five Years \$316,018,166.00**





SLATER AVE.

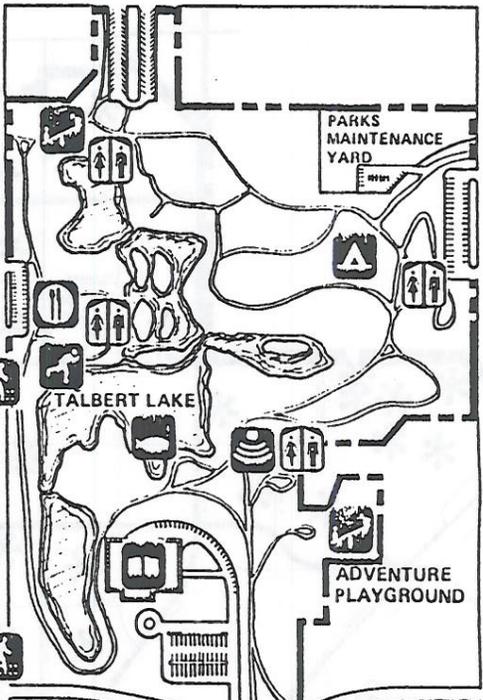
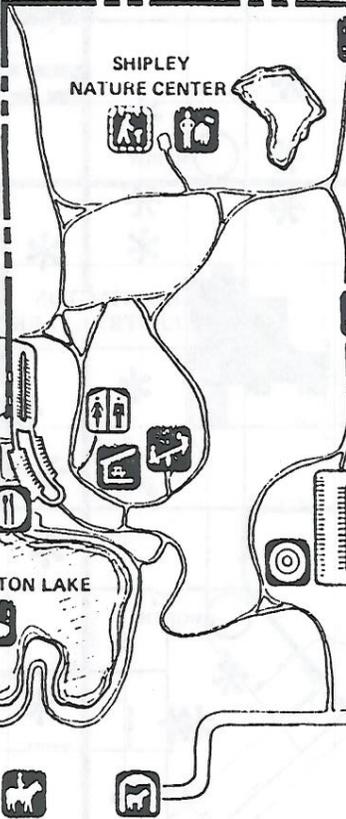
-  RANGER STATION
-  INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
-  PLAYGROUND
-  PICNIC SHELTER
-  AMPHITHEATER
-  RESTROOMS
-  FISHING
-  FRISBEE GOLF
-  JOG/WALK EXERCISE COURSE
-  FOOD CONCESSION
-  LIBRARY
-  SHOOTING RANGE
-  HORSE STABLE
-  HORSE TRAILS
-  YOUTH GROUP CAMPGROUND
-  PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

CENTRAL PARK DR.

INLET DR.

EDWARDS ST.

ELLIS AVE.



TALBERT AVE.

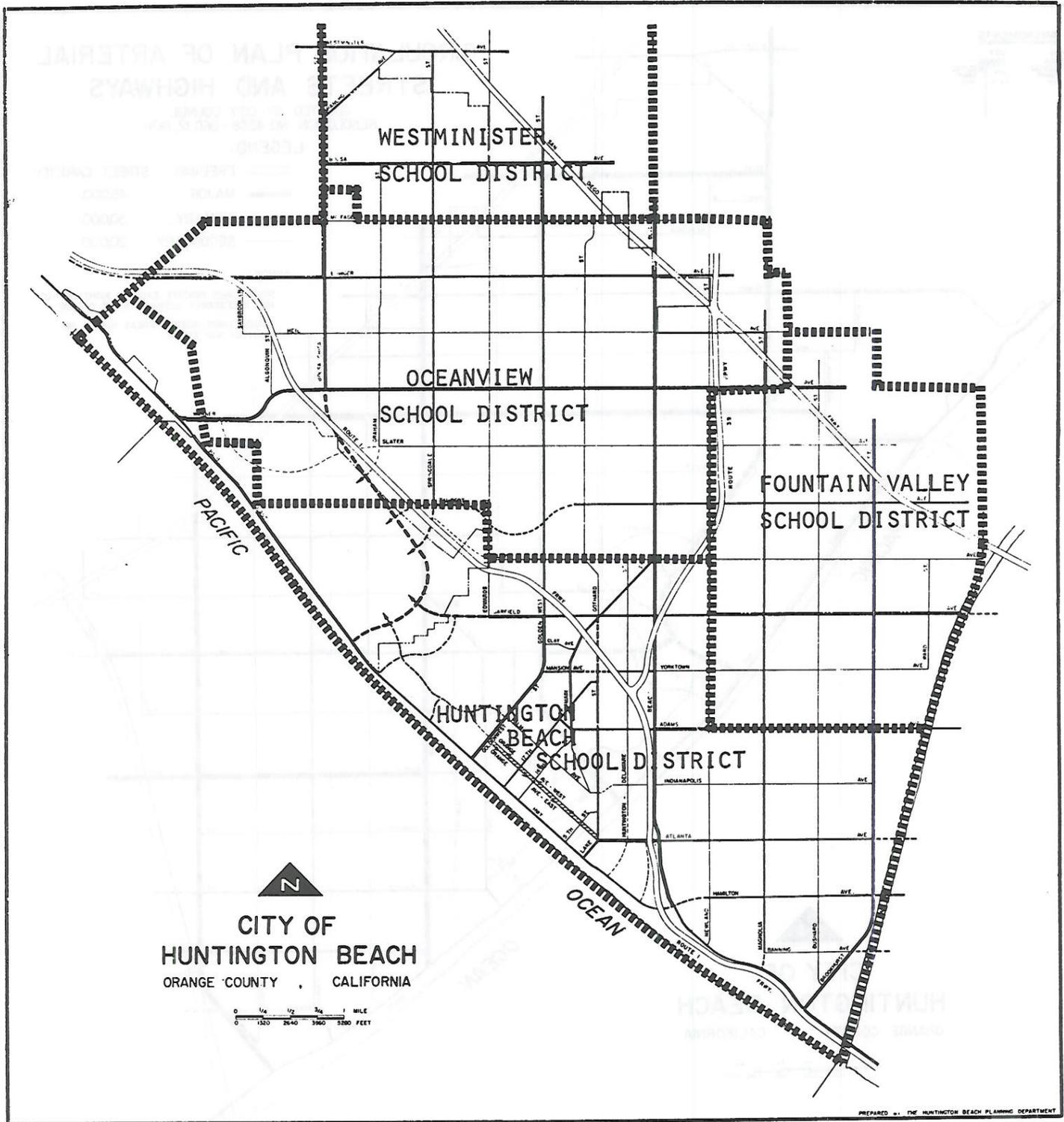
GOLDENWEST ST.

GOTHARD ST.

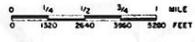
# HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK



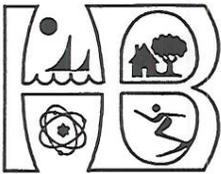
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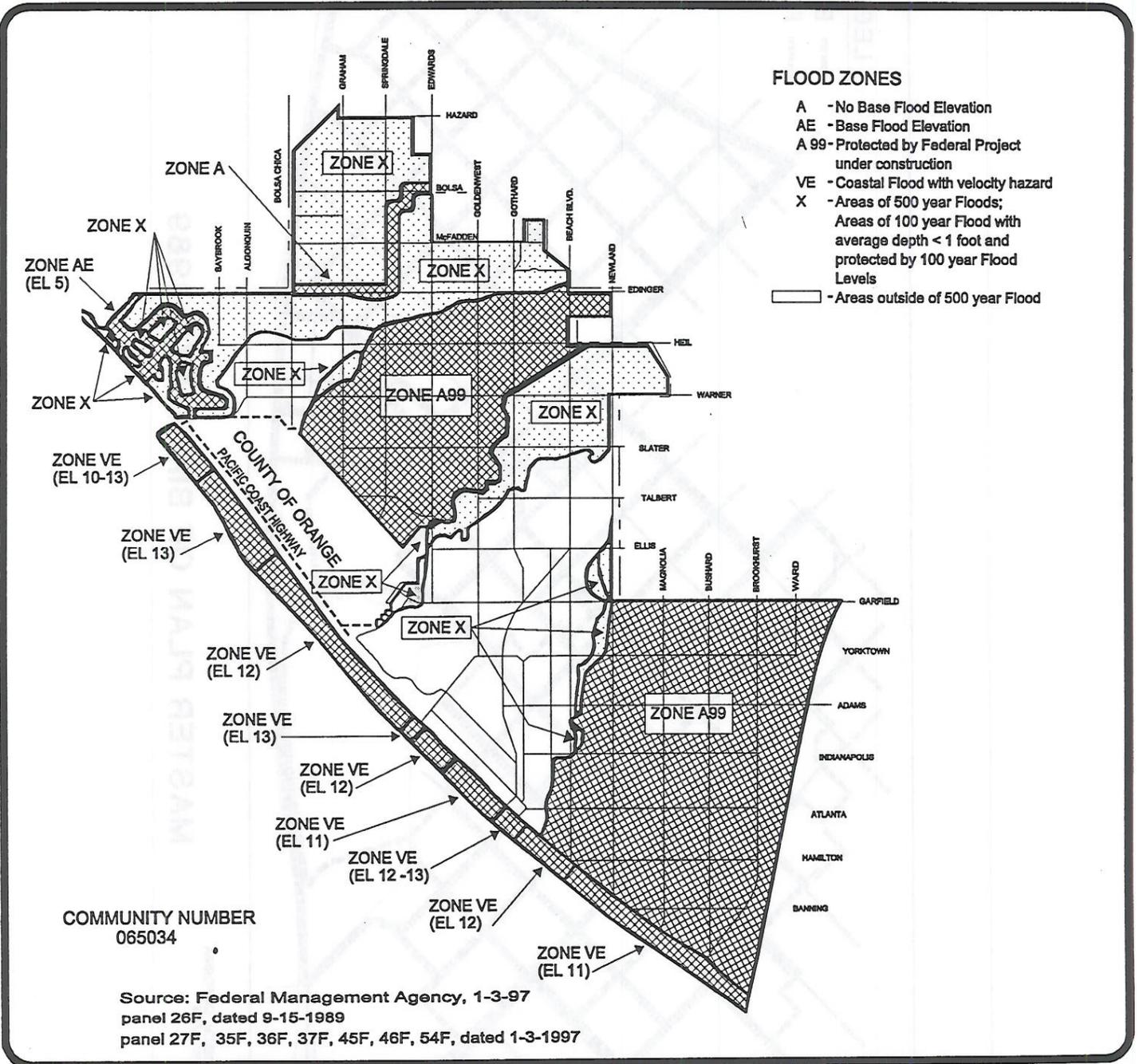
**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
 ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



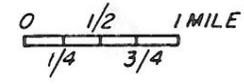
PREPARED BY THE HUNTINGTON BEACH PLANNING DEPARTMENT



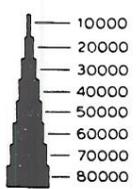
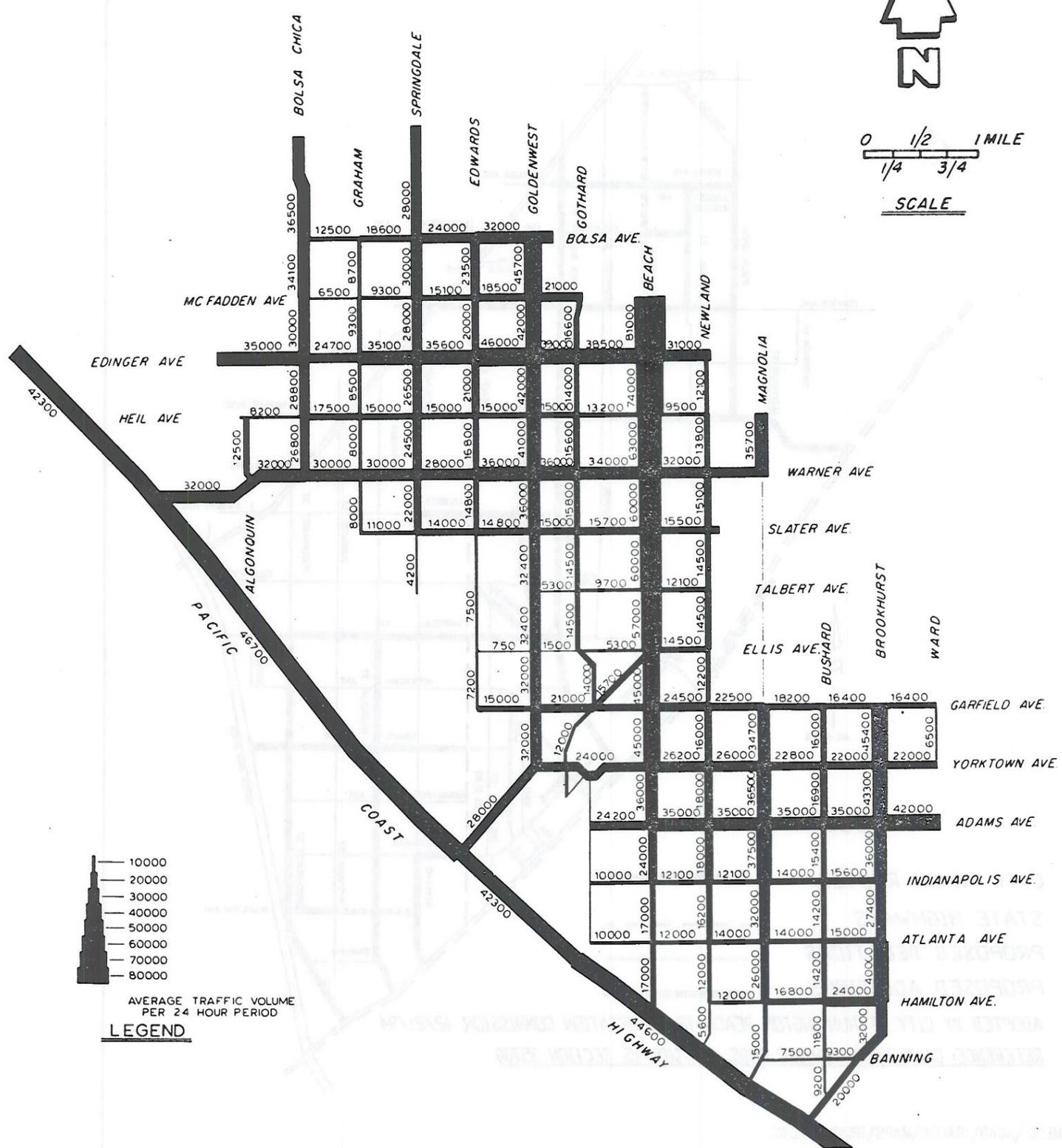
# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH



## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS 100 & 500 YEAR FLOOD



SCALE



AVERAGE TRAFFIC VOLUME PER 24 HOUR PERIOD

LEGEND

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH TRAFFIC FLOW MAP

**1991 DEMOGRAPHICS CHARACTERISTICS  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**

POPULATION		ETHNICITY OF POPULATION		AGE BY SEX			
Year	Population		<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
1950:	5,237*						
1960:	11,492*	White	86.11%	156,314	0- 4	5,705	5,482
1970:	115,960*	Black	.90%	1,687	5- 9	5,171	4,953
1976:	152,148*	Amer Ind/Eskimo	.60%	1,157	10-14	5,034	4,865
1977:	157,800**	Aleut.			15-19	6,457	5,825
1978:	161,300**	Asian Pacific	8.30%	15,048	20-24	8,999	7,958
1979:	167,419	Spanish	4.00%	7,313	25-34	22,354	17,805
1980:	172,505*	Other	<u>11.20%</u>	<u>20,397</u>	35-44	14,940	15,253
1981:	173,327**	<b>TOTAL</b>	100.00%	181,519	45-54	11,446	11,446
1982:	175,007**				55-64	472	7,208
1983:	176,370**				65-74	4,121	5,262
1984:	176,329**				75+	<u>1,957</u>	<u>3,748</u>
1985:	176,156**				<b>TOTAL</b>	93,269	89,805
1986:	177,988**						
1987:	178,788**						
1988:	178,260**						
1989:	178,896**						
1990:	181,519***						
1991:	182,800**						
1992:	184,962**						
1993:	186,867						
1994:	189,159						
1995:	189,795						

Census: \* 1975 Census Revised Figures  
 \*\* California State Department of Finance Estimates  
 \*\*\* 1990 Census Figures

**City Labor Market Data**

Employment By Type**	No. of Firms	Employment 1980 Census	Percentage of County	Major Employers
Retail Trade	1,352	15,069	6.6%	City of Huntington Beach
Finance/Insurance/ Real Estate	2,945	3,924	3.8%	General Telephone Huntington Beach Union
Business & Personal Services	7,688	15,170	3.3%	High School District Huntington Center
Resource Based	18	450	3.3%	Humana Hospital
Construction	2,665	2,885	4.0%	McDonnell Douglas
Manufacturing/High Tech & Defense	511	14,369	2.6%	Golden West College
Transportation/ Communications/& Public Utilities	165	1,341	5.4%	
Wholesale Trade	176	1,269	8.9%	
Government	14	<u>6,361</u>	<u>6.9%</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		60,869	4.9%	

\* California Employment and Payroll, Employment Development Department and Economic Research Associates - Source: Industrial Commercial Data System (INCOM)  
 \*\* Source: Business License - Does not include Home Occupation, Swap Meet Sales (Not Updated to 1990 Census)

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**

**TAXABLE SALES**

**TAXABLE SALES: \***

**1989**

**1990**

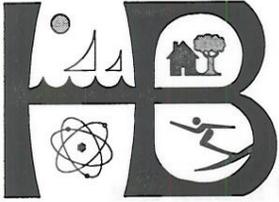
Type of Business (taxable transaction in thousands)	Permits Transactions	Taxable Transactions	Permits	Taxable
<b>Retail Stores:</b>				
Apparel Stores	119	\$ 50,870	123	53,362
General Merchandise Stores	22	167,148	22	161,584
Drug Stores	26	25,014	28	25,474
Food Stores	83	86,304	82	89,651
Packaged Liquor Stores	41	17,291	42	17,696
Eating & Drinking Places	398	140,855	394	140,612
Home Furnishing & Appliances	128	113,155	132	106,237
Bldg Material & Farm Implements	46	186,376	48	120,506
Auto Dealers & Auto Supplies	86	303,614	82	237,643
Service Stations	71	77,278	65	100,757
Other Retail Stores	566	163,648	602	171,955
Total Retail Stores	1,586	1,331,553	1,620	1,225,477
All Other Outlets	4,662	297,596	4,683	294,158
Total All Outlets	6,248	1,629,149	6,303	1,519,635

\*Source: Taxable Sales in California - State Board of Equalization

O F F I C I A L C I T Y S E A L



THE COMMON SEAL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED AS TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSION: A CIRCLE, WITH A CENTERPIECE CONSISTING OF A VIEW OF OCEAN WAVES, WITH THE OUTLINE OF CATALINA ISLAND, AS SEEN FROM THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, IN THE BACKGROUND, AND WITH THE WORDS "CITY OF HUNTINGTON, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 17th 1909, A.D." SURROUNDING SAID CENTERPIECE AND NEAR THE INSIDE MARGIN OF SAID CIRCLE. (ORDINANCE NO. 3 - ADOPTED 2/23/09)



## THIS IS HOW HUNTINGTON BEACH BEGAN

*(As taken from The News, Orange County Calif., Don Keller, May, 1963 and updated by the Orange County Business Digest and the Huntington Beach Board of Realtors, in approx. 1970)*

Dozens of streams laced the countryside. Artesian springs bubbled, while flocks of birds so thick as to almost blot out the sun soared and wheeled overhead.

The thousands of new residents pouring into Huntington Beach are unaware that this was the picture when the nucleus of their community was created 136 years ago.

It was on May 22, 1834 that a section of the vast Spanish possession know as the "Nietos Grant was split off. Named Las Bolsas (the pockets of bays), it covered 21 square miles from which the cities of Huntington Beach, Westminster, Garden Grove & Talbert community have arisen.

It was granted by Mexican Governor Jose Figueroa to Catarina Ruiz, the widow of one of the Nietos. Ex-soldier Manuel Nieto had been given what is now the west half of Orange County plus land in the Whittier area.

Nietos died in 1804, but it wasn't until 30 years later his holding were divided at the request of his heirs. Seven years after that, the 6 square mile rancho to the northwest, Bolsa Chica (Little Pocket) was split off and granted to Joaquin Ruiz.

In the 1850's both Bolsa Chica and La Bolsas came under the ownership of Abel Stearns, who became the largest owner of land and cattle in Southern California. A native of Massachusetts, he came to California in 1820 and settled as a trader in Los Angeles in 1833.

Even as late as March 11, 1889, when the new County of Orange was created out of the southeast part of Los Angeles County, the land was still largely "rancho" the scene predominated by streams and lush grazing plains.

The Sterns Rancho company ran cattle and horses and raised grain on this property and decided to sell the "swamp" as least desirable.

Little by little the area along the beach began to take on character albeit what it may, and the beach took on the name of Shell Beach...but with the introduction of the year 1901 the name changed to Pacific City as a local syndicate formed by P. A. Stanton purchased 40 acres at the beach and subdivided 20 acres along what is now both sides of Main Street. The dream to rival Atlantic City was that of Mr. Stanton and not shared by too many others in his day. His year of activity ended as Stanton sold out in 1902 to Henry F. Huntington and the Huntington Beach Company . . . and the Pacific Electric Railway came to the seaside community which was renamed Huntington Beach.

The city was incorporated in 1909, with Ed Manning as the first mayor. The original townsite consisted of 4.487 square miles, with a population of 915; and remained so until 1957 when a series of annexations began. By 1970, Huntington Beach had become the largest city in area in Orange County, with a total of 51.30 square miles. One of the fastest grown cities in the West, the population had increased from 5,358 to over 115,000 in 1970.

Oil was discovered in profitable quantities in Huntington Beach in 1920 and remains an important part of the economy---1,691 producing wells and several refineries still in operation in 1970. Slant drilling into the tideland pools has produced for the State of California, many millions of dollars per year in royalties.

One of the richest farming sections in the Western states, the Huntington Beach area produced such crops as lima beans, sugar beets, asparagus, chili peppers, tomatoes and a variety of truck farm crops. There is an abundance of cool water for both irrigation's a domestic purposes.

along the ocean front from Long Beach and electrified the old railroad line to Newport Beach. A wooden pier was built into the ocean and on the bluff a two story frame hotel, the Huntington Inn, was erected. As a gesture of goodwill the name of the city was changed to Huntington Beach. A post office was established in 1903 and an old piano box served as its first quarters. The first electric passenger train rolled into Huntington Beach on July 4, 1904. An extensive advertising campaign drew attention to Huntington Beach and a real estate boom developed. Lots that had sold for \$200 a year before skyrocketed to \$43,000. More land was added to the original townsite. The Huntington Beach Company, comprised mostly of Angelenos, had acquired the remaining holdings. The company's first president, J. V. Vickers, had been a director of the West Coast Land and Water Co., when Mr. Stanton headed the syndicate. Mr. Vickers was an advocate of town beautification and saw to it that trees were planted on every street.

The City of Huntington Beach was incorporated February 17 1909, with Ed Manning as the first Mayor. The original townsite consisted of 3.57 square miles, with a population of 915. There were 542 registered voters. The first school was built the same year.

From 1910 to 1920 the City made very slow progress. The Huntington Beach Co. operated a ranch raising food grains on some of the 1400 acres they owned. In 1918, they held public land auctions to stay out of debt. The Encyclopedia Britannica Company came looking for the cheapest possible land to subdivide and give away as bonus lots to purchasers of a set of their Student Reference Encyclopedias, (a special edition of some ten or twelve volumes.) They negotiated a deal with the Huntington Beach Co. and purchased seven, five acre tracts located 2 1/2 miles from the beach in the northwest section of the Huntington Beach Co. Property. They subdivided each five acre tract into sixty lots resulting in 420 lots in all. These lots located inland, on hill sides and in ravines, were for the most part worthless.

In 1919, Standard Oil Company leased 500 acres of land from the Huntington Beach Co. The first oil well was drilled in what was then the northwest area of the City. This well was known as A-1 and was brought in during August, 1920, producing 91 barrels of oil a day. They continued to drill more wells on their lease and a multitude of others moved in with the hopes of finding a profitable oil well. Wells sprang up over night and in less than a month the town grew from 1,500 to 5,000 people.

On November 6, 1920, Standard Oil Co. brought in the history making well known as Bolsa Chica No. 1. This well blew out late in the afternoon with a roar that could be heard from miles around. An estimated 4,000,000 cubic feet of gas and 1742 barrels of oil were produced per day by this well alone. Standard Oil Co. shipped several hundred men from other fields into Huntington Beach to help contain the overflow of oil. Bolsa No. 1 proved that the Huntington Beach oil field was a great discovery and soon the population was over 7,000 persons. Areas as small as a city lot were leased and used for organizing oil corporations. Scores of them were formed and their stock put on the market. People were brought in by bus loads and told how they could become oil millionaires. Full-page publicity and national advertising built up the fame of Huntington Beach. People became fanatical about oil stocks. The old established oil companies quietly continued to drill more wells. After a year or so of frenzy, the oil field was fully explored and the excitement died down. Some small companies made fantastic profits. Each owner of an encyclopedia lot received an income of \$100 a month. What appeared to have been a valueless gift of land resulted in fortunes of various amounts to its recipients. Their bonanza continued several years.

West of the City was a three-mile stretch of beach that was privately owned. For years, campers, fishermen, and squatters used the shore without control of any kind. A littler of bottles, cans and trash accumulated to such an extent that the place became known as "Tin Can Beach". In 1961 the State of California purchased it and began developing Bolsa Chica State Park.

During the years which followed, Huntington Beach was known primarily for its production and agriculture. In 1964, a total of 1,776 oil wells in the Huntington Beach oil pools produced 16,095,564 barrels of oil. This yield would amount to more than \$44 million, based on an average basic price of \$2.75 per barrel. On the basis of these figures, Huntington Beach ranks number three among the largest Petroleum producers in the state.

Located in one of the richest farming areas in the West, because of its underground wells and peat bogs local farms grew lima bean, sugar beets, tomatoes, celery and similar truck farming crops. To the northwest of Huntington Beach, a community called Wintersburg, now a part of the City, where most of the growth took place in the 60's; the acreage was used primarily for farming.

Expansion of The City began in 1957 when annexations were made from large property holdings, and many farmers asked for admittance to the City, primarily because of its sound tax base.

From 1957 through 1960, Huntington Beach experienced its most rapid growth in area. It increased its size to 25 miles as a result of annexations totaling 20 square miles. From 1961 to the present time, 22 annexations increased the city's area to its present 26 square miles. The ultimate size of Huntington Beach will be 55 square miles; 30 miles of land and 25 square miles of ocean.

The most spectacular development in 1963 was Huntington Harbour, a multi-million dollar project that turned swampland into a beautiful residential district of islands, channels and yachting facilities.

Aside from oil, two of the oldest industries in the City were the Bolsa Tile plant and the Holly Sugar Factory. Today, the tile plant is still in business manufacturing tile, but alas, the old Holly Sugar Factory stands abandoned. The two largest industries in Huntington Beach brought many prospective residents. The Edison generating plant was constructed in 1956, and the Douglas Aircraft Space Systems Center opened in 1963.

In the past two decades Huntington Beach has been the fastest growing city in the nation, perhaps in the world. The 11,000 population of the 1950's stands at 148,000 and still nearly half of the City's land is yet to be built upon.

The rapid growth in such a short period has generated many serious problems, none insurmountable, but all requiring the attention of the City Council, administration and taxpayers. The concerned citizens of the community got busy by forming or joining groups that would study the problems and come up with solutions or recommendations. For this attitude the City has been recognized as one of the top 22 cities in the nation as a finalist in the 1970- National Municipal League's All America City Contest.

Huntington Beach has also been honored with the inaugural award of the project 21 Team of the University of California at Irvine for citizen involvement and government cooperation along the waterfront and byways in the areas of landscaping, preservation of the natural resources and the interest of people in making this not just a good community, but the best.

For the past few years the emphasis has been on improving the cultural and ecological climate through the efforts of citizens and government. Both an Environmental and Art and Cultural Council have been established by the City Council.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

By: Barbara Milkovich - 1986

The land which includes Huntington Beach was in the Spanish land grant, Las Bolsas, given to Manuel Nieto in 1797. Later it was part of the Stearns ranch holdings which were dissolved during the 1880's land boom as farms developed on the former range land. Some of these early farmers settled at several locations in what is now northern Huntington Beach, Westminster, and Fountain Valley. Post Offices were established, schools and churches built.

In 1901, a group of farmers and investors decided to build a residential/resort community on the bluff above popular Shell Beach. Spurred on by the success of Atlantic City on the East Coast, they named their venture "Pacific City." Although the boom of the 1880's was long over, the entrepreneurs hoped to capitalize on a new one developing in coastal resort cities like Long Beach and Newport Beach. However, the first speculators did not have the resources to carry out successful promotion. Soon they sold to a group of Los Angeles businessmen, ultimately including Henry E. Huntington. Huntington was expanding his Pacific Electric Railway then and was ready to bring it into coastal Orange County. On July 4, 1904, the first Red Cars of the Pacific Electric rolled in to the new city and its name was changed to Huntington Beach.

After an initial land rush, typical of the coastal area, the little city grew slowly, but steadily. By February of 1909, it was incorporated with Charles W. Warner, David O. Stewart, Matthew E. Helme, Charles M. Howard and Ed. Manning elected as the first Trustees. In 1911, the first building ordinance was passed and formal records of the city's expansion began.

Most of the commercial buildings in the downtown were built during the first fifteen years as were schools and a Carnegie library. The existent bungalow church at 6th and Orange is one of those built along Orange Avenue by the city's first residents.

In 1906, city boosters attracted the Methodist convention away from Long Beach by donating a large camp site and building a 3,000 seat auditorium for that denomination. For over ten years, visitors and year around residents flocked to the gospel meetings there each summer as well as to other conventions like those of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). Beach recreation facilities, including the pier (1914), were built to establish Huntington Beach as a popular resort.

About 1914, an Americana (encyclopedia) salesman bought land from the Huntington Beach Company to subdivide into small lots and give away premiums with the purchase of their book sets. As land sales to individuals were slow, the land developers were delighted to be rid of the surplus land which was unsuitable for housing because of its deep gullies. Their relief probably turned to dismay when oil was discovered on the property, known as the "encyclopedia lots", in 1920.

The discovery well, near Goldenwest and Clay Streets, was modest. The second, however, was a mighty gusher, blowing in at 2,000 barrels of oil per day. Overnight, the composition of the community was changed.

Housing of all kinds developed rapidly for the incoming population. A tent city was erected on the abandoned Methodist campground. Tiny cottages were built on 25 foot lots to house oil workers and their families. Second stories of commercial building were remodeled from office space to rooming houses for single laborers, and even barns and garages were converted into rental housing.

Large homes had been built along the ocean front earlier, representing the choice residential neighborhood. Now this section expanded inland between 17th and 23rd streets. As the oil field behind the neighborhood became defined, speculators and residents realized that there was probably oil there too. Bowing to public pressure, the City Council agreed to allow drilling of this "town lot" area in April of 1926. Within a short time some 300 dwellings were moved, some as far as Fullerton, old-timers say, to make way for the oil rigs and production equipment.

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GOSPEL SWAMPS

(Author Unknown)

The Indians were here first. The Shoshone tribes roamed the entire California coast at one time, living in bark huts and eating the fruits and vegetables that grew here. Then the Spanish arrived; fifty years following the discovery of America, California was staked out by the conquistador armies venturing northward from vanquished Mexicoyotl. The first recorded visit in the Huntington Beach area dates 1769, when troops, guided by Gaspar de Portola marched through as an expeditionary force.

During the Spanish occupation of this land, named by those people as a mythical paradise empire, Huntington Beach was part of two vast rancheros; Ranchos La Bolsa Chica and Las Bolsas. Through this period and the subsequent era of United States annexation Huntington Beach remained relatively untouched by changes that occurred.

Orange County historian T. B. Talbert explained the city's isolation "Originally except for the Huntington Beach mesa, the coastal area extending from the Newport Mesa to the Bolsa Chica Mesa and back into the country as far as Bolsa, a distance of about seven miles, was considered practically swamp." And it was. Due to tide invasions in lowlands to the south, now Fountain Valley, and trackless swamps to the north, Sunset Beach and Huntington Harbour today, the hearts of Huntington Beach was an island. It had no name, except possibly for its Shell Beach, derived from the farmers using the beaches to gather shells for their livestock. But due to its geographic conditions, Huntington Beach did receive an unofficial name. As related by Walter B. Tedford the actual time and naming of the area has been preserved.

"Among the first neighbors in the community (during the spring of 1869), was a family by the name of Hickey; the head of the family was Isaac Hickey, a Baptist Preacher...The Reverend Hickey would frequently hold meetings at his or some neighbor's house where the people would gather for services. After a few of these meetings had been held, in a gathering of boys one day...George Lynch said, "I have a good name for this community, let's call it Gospel Swamp." The name struck the boys as being good and of course the news spread and the name was universally adopted."

So, now we find Gospel Swamp's real name, or should it be called stigma.

Again progress, in the guise of farming and land speculation, passed by the isolated plateau. Aside from a group of adventurous, cabbage-growing Chinese railroad workers founding Wintersburg, now hidden in the Warner Boulevard-Goldenwest Street area, and the experimental farmers dabbling in Fountain Valley swampland, the 3/4-mile pier was a subconscious glimmer for the Hickeys, the Lynches and the Tedfords.

Two factors changed the future of Gospel Swamps. Both would promise to bring the city new measures of attention and later prominence. But, it would be noted here, that neither factor was intended to improve Gospel Swamp as a city. In fact, one was blatant exploitation, the other factor only stopped in Gospel Swamps each trip, moving on to its real goal in Newport Beach. Land speculation was Orange County's largest industry but Gospel Swamp's participation was like playing second violin in an all-brass band.

Land was considered so bad in Gospel Swamps that the Encyclopedia Brittanica gave it away. During the era of "Our Town," "The Music Man," and The Crystal Palace, America's foremost encyclopedia was trotting door-to-door vending its volumes with an added attraction. "If you buy now, we'll give you one acre of valuable California land absolutely free!" No one told the people what they were getting, that is, what Encyclopedia Brittanica thought they were getting. Nothing.

Somehow the purchasers knew. Some kept the deed proudly locked away with other important family papers. The remainder stashed the deed inside a box of old clothing up in the attic. In all, 500 acres of land was given away, that "worthless" parcel located north of the present site of Huntington Beach High School.

In an attempt to repeat the success of the of the earlier Placentia strikes, Standard Oil began in 1920 to test for oil deposits in the Gospel Swamps area (the town was previously renamed, but that information comes later, notetakers). Any individual with geographic background will understand why they chose a hill to test, but of all hills, Standard Oil chose Summit Hill. To clarify, Summit Hill was the identical land sold as "encyclopedia lots" years before. An evident problem resulted.

# HUNTINGTON BEACH FLOOD HISTORY

COMPILED BY TRACEY SALTZMAN,  
PLANNING INTERN  
SEPTEMBER, 1995

Most of Orange County, as well as Huntington Beach, is located in a flood plain. The greatest flood was probably that of 1884 though it did comparatively little damage as the county was sparsely settled at that time. Measurement of stream flow in Southern California began in the period of 1893-1895, but it was not until after 1906 that any large number of streams were regularly measured. Previous to that time only rainfall records were available. (LA Times 3/4/38)

Since only general deductions about floods can be made from rainfall records along, accurate information about large floods in the past is impossible to obtain. For still earlier information, it is necessary to look at old books, records of the missions, and the writings of early day travelers. This information is of minimal value except as an indication that floods have occurred. (LA Times 3/4/38)

## 1825

The historical record of flooding in Huntington Beach dates back to the flood of 1825 which changed the course of the Santa Ana River. Previous to that year the Santa Ana entered the ocean several miles to the northwest of its present channel. (OC Flood Control District)

## 1861-62

The flood of 1861-62 has been called the "great Flood" and the Noachian deluge of California Floods." Beginning on December 24, 1861, it rained for almost four weeks but for two brief interruptions. (Friis 52)

In San Bernadino, Riverside, and Orange Counties, the Santa Ana River became a raging torrent during the flood of 1862. The prosperous colonies along the banks of the river were completely inundated, and vineyards, orchards, and grain fields became a barren waste. (OC Flood Control District)

Storms in 1862 accounted for a peak flow of 320,000 cubic feet per second in the upper river and created an inland sea in Orange County. Lasting about three weeks with water standing four feet deep up to four miles from the river, this disaster almost equaled a 200-year or worst possible flood. (City of Huntington Beach Flood Study 1974)

## 1884

There were two floods in 1884, the first in the latter part of February. This flood did little damage but the large quantity of water that fell apparently used much of the absorptive capacity of the ground. The second flood came 6 or 8 days later and did a great deal of damage. Beginning at a point below where Santiago Creek enters the Santa Ana River, the river cut through the fertile lands east of the old channel and discharged into the ocean about 3 miles southeast of its former outlet. (OC Flood Control District)

32.65 inches of rain made this the county's wettest year on record. It was noted that after one storm, it was possible to row a boat from Newport Beach to Santa Ana. (OC Register 1/13/95)

## 1916

The estimated average rainfall in January and February of this year was 11 inches. After three days of rain, the Santa Ana River overflowed, sending a wall of mud through farmland and streets. Four lives were lost and property damage was estimated to be \$520,500.00. (OC Flood Control District)

## HUNTINGTON BEACH HISTORY

By: Carolyn F. Bailey - 1981

### Huntington Beach -- Town On A Mesa

The City of Huntington Beach is situated on a wedge-shaped mesa on the Pacific Ocean.

In its original state, the mesa was almost surrounded by swamp land. Continued seepage from widespread artesian wells combined with the estuary of the Santa Ana River on the south to form acres of peat bogs and willow thickets. At the foot of the west bluff a tidal lagoon harbored various water fowl, shellfish and related fauna and flora. These natural conditions virtually isolated the mesa from the valley, well into the mid-19th century.

Archaeologists have located sixteen sites of varying antiquity on the mesa where Indians, called by the Spaniards Gabrielinos, made camp. One of these, a major camp and burial ground, overlooked the Santa Ana River. It was located on part of what is known today as the Newland property, opposite Wycliffe's 4.6-acre plot on Beach Boulevard.

From 1542 to 1822, Spain ruled what is now California. A few large land grants were made during that period and when Mexico achieved independence in 1822, the Mexican governors of Alta, California made additional grants. Among these were the Rancho Los Alamitos and the Rancho Las Bolsas, by Governor Jose Figueroa. A Yankee trader, Abel Sterns, began lending money to the grantee of Rancho Los Alamitos and when the owner could not pay the debt, Sterns acquired the Rancho. His next acquisition was a 156,000-acre Rancho Las Bolsas that included what later would be called the City of Huntington Beach as well as most of Orange County.

In 1862 Sterns sold the Rancho to The Los Angeles and San Bernardino Land Company. The land was then placed under the agency of Sterns' Rancho which acted as Realtor. This set the stage for rapid development of the Santa Ana Valley, which eventually included the founding of the city of Huntington Beach—a unique story, so recent in history that some of its participants are still living.

### Stearns Ranchos Company

After California was admitted to the Union in 1850, a Land Commission was established to verify early surveys and proof of ownership. The owner of the Rancho Las Bolsas, which included modern-day Huntington Beach, could ill afford the Land Commission's fees. So Abel Sterns loaned the parties involved 50 young cows to meet the commission's fees and cash for other needs. The interest on the loan was five percent compounded monthly! In little more than a year's time the interest rate had caused the debt to double. On February 14, 1861, the Rancho went at public auction to Sterns for fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), making him the wealthiest ranchero in the Santa Ana Valley.

The year held additional rewards for Sterns. On Christmas Eve, 1861, rain began falling in the valley and continued for four weeks. The swollen Santa Ana River left its banks and when the water receded, the river had moved from the west bluff of the Huntington Mesa to the east bluff of Costa Mesa. Since the river acted as the eastern boundary of the Rancho Las Bolsas, Sterns claimed the added strip of land for the Rancho. A survey was ordered and filed with the Land Commission which upheld Stearns' claim. Curiously, the only remaining maps showing the old and new boundary lines are copies made by a sixteen-year-old boy. The originals were destroyed when Stearns' home office was razed in the great San Francisco fire of 1906.

Riding high on financial and property gains, Abel Sterns entered 1862 expecting even greater things. But a two-year drought set in causing the loss of thousands of cattle. By 1868 Stearns had suffered such financial reverses that he had sold most of his land holdings to the Trust which controlled the Stearns Ranchos Company. The era of the large cattle ranchos was on the way out. In its place came agriculture, as ranchos were broken up and generally sold in forty (40)-acre farms.

Between 1897 and 1897, Colonel Robert J. Northam, manager of the Stearns Ranchos Company, acquired seven parcels from the company. His activities as manager and as a landowner on the Huntington Mesa are inexorably tied to the Mesa's development.

### The Stanton Syndicate And Pacific City

Colonel Robert J. Northam's ranch house was located where the Huntington Beach Company stands today. From there the view was grand. The mesa's verdant barley and alfalfa fields, interlaced with a chain of sparkling fresh water ponds, spread all the way to colorful Shell Beach. Seed barley from the mesa was sold to farmers who had purchased, drained and cultivated the rich alluvium of the swamps.

Standard's "Bolsa Chica" No. 1 is considered to be the Huntington Beach Discovery Well. It came in as a gusher producing two thousand (2,000) barrels per day (B/D). Development of six areas and five major booms followed, putting Huntington Beach on the map as California's fourth largest oil field.

The initial boom, located in the Golden West-Garfield area, lasted from 1920-1923. From 1922-1926 the low-yield Barley Field area was developed. The second boom began when the Lower or Main Zone of the 17th Street Townlot area was tapped in 1926. On the Pacific Coast Highway, Wilshire Oil drilled "Huntington Beach" No. 15, producing four thousand eight hundred (4,800) B/D! Excitement ran high over the production and the indication of the Offshore Tidelands pool. Hundreds of wells were drilled along the coast highway using McVicar's whipstock tool for directional drilling. The third boom was on.

A forest of derricks had arisen around and in the town, but more were to come. In 1936 the Five Points area was developed. This was followed by a resurgence of activity in 1943 and the drilling of "Mize" No. 1 in the Townlot Tar Zone that triggered the fourth boom. A dozen years later the last boom occurred with the development of the Southeast Townlot Extension. During this period oil was discovered on the property where Wycliffe's new offices are being completed. Unfortunately, the wells on the property are no longer productive!

#### Through Seven Decades

When Philip Stanton sold his interest in the West Coast Land and Water Company in 1902, Colonel H. S. Finley opted to join the new syndicate that formed the Huntington Beach Company. It was Finley who, as a boy of sixteen, had copies the map and notes, the only surviving evidence of the 1862 survey of the Stearns Ranchos Company. And it was Finley who owned the land upon which Wycliffe's international offices are being built.

In 1915, Finley sold this property to C. G. Ward who owned it until 1948. Between 1948 and 1953 the property changed owners twice and in 1953 Ralph E. Welch purchased the land. Three years later he deeded over a portion of it for use as Welch's Ready Mixed Concrete Company and so it remained until approximately 1969 when the plant was dismantled and moved by Welch to another location.

After the discovery of oil in Huntington Beach, drilling on geologic "highs" was common. Oil speculators leased one of these "high", know locally as the Golden Dome, from C. G. Ward. Mrs. Maud Brown, whose property fronted on Quincy (now Adams), recalls that a well on the Dome came in as a gusher in the early '20s, "spreading casing-mud, rock and crude oil over everything in its path. Oilman Howard O'Brien remembers driving by on Harrison (now Beach Boulevard) and seeing the gusher. "My car wasn't affected", he says, "but those passing on Quincy were a sight to behold".

In 1931 the "Turner" No. 6 well was completed, the first of three wells to be drilled on that part of the Dome now owned by Wycliffe. "Diane" No. 1 and "Paul III" No. 1 were completed twenty-six years later. None of the wells were large producers, "Turner" No. 6 being abandoned within a relatively short time.

As production declined, the other two wells were abandoned also and the sites restored, opening the way for future construction. With this policy continuing in the Huntington Beach area, former Mayor Alvin M. Coen anticipates that "even a few decades hence" all signs of the oil industry will have vanished. Then Huntington Beach will realize at last its potential as a resort city.

As early as the 1860's, the area had been opened to agriculture, and by the late 1870's, the southeastern delta was called the "Egypt of America" because it was so fertile. Here rich crops of vegetables were grown, including celery, asparagus, peppers, corn and potatoes. Barley was also an important crop and grown on the mesa land inland from the town.

Before the community of Huntington Beach was developed, Westminster was settled as a center for the agricultural region. However, the peat fields, while wonderful for celery cultivation, were too soft for railway building. The first railroad into the region, the Santa Ana and Newport Railroad, was constructed in 1897 from Santa Ana to Newport Beach, and along the coast to the edge of the bluff which became Huntington Beach. It was forced to stop only seven miles from the coast by virtually impassable peat bogs, several miles from Westminster. This meant that, in the early period, Huntington Beach developed as the transportation center for the region.

Huntington Beach was originally laid out on the top of the bluff, which was the largest area of high land along the Pacific coast between Long Beach and Newport Mesa. The first developers, Philip Stanton, John N. Anderson, and S.H. Finley named their venture Pacific City, and hoped to establish a resort along the lines of Atlantic City, New Jersey. By 1902, some eighteen months after they began, they sold out to another group which included Henry Huntington. As a result, the name of the community was changed, to Huntington Beach and the Pacific Electric railway was constructed along the bluff, linking it with Long Beach.

Once the electric railroad was in operation, city boosters sought tourist traffic. They were fortunate to attract the Methodist Resort Association which accepted the gift of land to establish a camp in the center of town. This site, later called "Arbamar", became a popular location for meetings during the summer months. Besides the Methodist Association annual camp meeting, the area served such diverse group meetings as the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Socialist Party, for fifteen years.

The City claims many prominent settlers during the pioneering years of Coastal Orange County. William Newland, who developed much of the fine farm land in the Huntington Beach area and provided capital for numerous enterprises, was one of the very first to settle here in 1897. His home has been restored as a museum by the Huntington Beach Historical Society in tribute to the agricultural founders of the area. Besides

Huntington Beach's incorporation as a sixth class city in 1909 encouraged more industry to come into the corridor along the Southern Pacific/Pacific Electric tracks. As the sugar beet industry developed in Orange County, Holly Sugar Co. built a major plant in that same area. A broom factory, drawn by abundant broom corn in the Gospel Swamp, followed, and a linoleum factory rounded out the early industrial economy. These were eclipsed in 1920 with the discovery of oil on the Huntington Beach bluff. Within a few short years, the discovery led to the development of six large oil fields in the region, and Huntington Beach ultimately ranked among the six largest oil fields (in terms of production) in the United States.

Development concentrated in agriculture and oil until the late 1950's when Orange County began to boom. Now a haven for light industry, Huntington Beach became home to some 900 companies by 1986, with a payroll of more than 40,000 employees.

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Much of the material in this essay is a product of my personal research. As I intended to develop it further and use it in my own work, I must retain control over it.

The Orange County Centennial, Inc. has permission to use my data in its publication but must give credit to my research where appropriate. Please contact me for exact references as needed.



Barbara Milkovich  
6032 Dundee Drive  
Huntington Beach, California 92647  
(714) 897-9766

Dated: November 2, 1987

# HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

WAYNE EDWARD SHERWOOD

1996

Free land in Huntington Beach. Free, when you bought a set of encyclopedias. Hard to believe, but that's how many people first heard of Huntington Beach. Shortly after the turn of the century, a New England company gave encyclopedia buyers a deed to a plot of land in Huntington Beach. Many people filed the deeds away or forgot about them, until oil was discovered, and the book-smart were now owners of some of the most important land in the area.

Today, Huntington Beach is a rich and vital part of Orange County. It's beaches, shops and entertainment centers draw millions annually. A strong industrial community, in place since the early 1900's, provides a strong economic foundation. With all this, with a population approaching 200,000, it's no wonder that Huntington Beach residents forget about the city's humble, pastoral beginnings. Or maybe they don't know THE HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH.

Long before Europeans came to the area, there were small communities of American Indians living in the area that is now Huntington Beach. Food and water were abundant, making it a peaceful place to live. Eventually Spanish settlers entered the area when the King of Spain handed out large land grants.

The first major subdivision of the area came on May 22, 1834, when a section of the large Nietos Grant was split. The new section was called Las Bolsas, or Little Pocket. This new parcel covered 21 square miles and included areas now part of Huntington Beach, Garden Grove and Westminster. Little changed over the next two decades. By the end of the 1850's the area was owned by Abel Stearns.

Stearns had moved to California from Massachusetts in 1829, settling the Los Angeles area in 1833. Over the years, Stearns became the largest land owner in California.

On March 11, 1889, area residents broke off from Los Angeles County to form their own county. The County of Orange was born. The new county was still mostly ranch and agricultural land.

By the turn of the century, part of what would one day be called Huntington Beach was being settled; at that time it was known as "Shell Beach" - named because of the large number of clams on the beach.

In 1901, Philip Stanton purchased a large parcel of land overlooking the beach and began to subdivide it for development. On a forty acre tract he laid out lots, streets and installed a water system. Through the center of the development, a Main Street was laid. Stanton then changed the city's name to "Pacific City" - an attempt to build a West Coast community to rival Atlantic City. But Stanton's dream only lasted a little more than a year. In 1902 he sold the land to Henry E. Huntington, the owner of the Pacific Electric Railroad.

It wasn't long before the local residents saw his trains bringing passengers to the beaches. The first of the trains rolled into town on July 4, 1904. That same year the community was renamed Huntington Beach as a tribute to Henry E. Huntington.

With the electric train and the establishment of a post office in 1903, it wasn't long before the town began to grow. Lots of land that had sold for \$200 were now being sold for thousands. The increase in population forced the town to add more land to the original township. Huntington Beach was becoming a favorite spot for families to settle down.

In 1904, the first pier in Huntington Beach was built by the Huntington Beach Company and trees were planted along the streets in an attempt to make the area more attractive.

Despite the fame the oil wells brought to Huntington Beach, the city and surrounding territory remained largely an agricultural producing zone. The fertile land was used in growing beans, tomatoes, celery and other cash crops.

As the 30's progressed, more people flocked to the city campground. By now, people were bringing trailers to park on the grounds, resulting in the creation of the Municipal Trailer Park.

### NATURAL DISASTER HIT

On March 10, 1933, an earthquake struck, damaging the pier, City Hall, the First State Bank building, and many other structures. After the earthquake, there was a lot of uneasiness. People began to run outside at the slightest tremble. For awhile many slept outdoors in fear of another earthquake. Soon the pier was patched, repairs were made to other buildings, and life returned to normal... until 1939 when a heavy Pacific Storm hit the coast, destroying a large portion of the pier, and forcing the city to rebuild again. In the mid 30's, the city erected a pair of criss-crossing arches spanning Main Street and Ocean Avenue (Pacific Coast Highway). But, because of the damp salt air, the arches eventually began to wear and deteriorate; and they were taken down.

### THE 40's AND 50's

In 1941, World War I began and the Navy moved in and took control of the Huntington Beach pier, using it as a submarine lookout post.

After the war, life returned to normal. In June 1946, the city installed the first parking meters on Main Street and Ocean Avenue, the toll was 5 cents an hour.

Alicia M. Wentworth, former City Clerk, remembers the times fondly. She lived in the municipal Trailer Park. Space rental, \$10.00 a month. "Our trailer, back end of it, was over the sand," she says. "Nine months of heaven for a 20-year-old-kid."

The city was finally coming into it's own by the end of the 40's. The 1947-48 city budget increased nearly a hundred thousand dollars, reaching a record of \$604,394.

In 1948, the state moved in and purchased 11,000 feet of beach property stretching from Hampshire (Beach Boulevard) to the Santa Ana River. This new state beach became the foundation for the Huntington Beach State Park.

In the early part of the decade of the 50's, little changed. Residents could go to the Surf Theater in the summer of 1953 to see a feature, such as the Million Dollar Mermaid with Esther Williams and Happy Go Lovely with David Niven. Hamburger was 35 cents a pound. In 1955, a three bedroom house at Newport Vista Homes sold for \$7,995.

Abby Tice remembers going dancing at the Pav-A-Lon in the mid 50's. "It had a nice floor," she says, "and it was big and you know back then dancing was - it was so different from now". Everybody enjoyed things, I think because we'd all come out of the depression and we really appreciated everything".

In 1956, with the expansion of the Huntington Beach apparent, the Edison Company built an electrical generating plant in the city.

In 1957, many of the surrounding farm lands in an unincorporated portion of the county asked to join the city and were gladly accepted. The city grew even more when large property holdings were annexed. These annexations started the large expansion boom in Huntington Beach.

ORANGE COUNTY HISTORY AS PORTRAYED IN LOCAL STREET NAMES

HUNTINGTON BEACH - Streets Underlined

OTHER COUNTY STREETS

Adams

In 1901 William L. Adams bought the "Estancia", or the "Gabe Allen Adobe" from Gabriel Allen, who had bought it from Eduardo Pollareno in 1870. Adams sold the Estancia to the Seagerstrom family who, in 1963, donated 5 acres of the land that included the Estancia to the City of Costa Mesa who turned it into a park and museum site, which is open to the public. It was believed that the Estancia was built by the padres from Mission San Juan Capistrano as a station for the sheep herders.

Baker

As many other people, Martin A. Baker, an early settler, arrived in Orange County in 1900. He lived on the property near the southwest corner of Baker and Newport Blvd., living in the "old Wolfe home." (Current history includes Orange County Supervisor in the early 1970's, David Baker.)

Ball

Charles D. Ball was one of the founders of the Orange County Medical Society, being a prominent doctor from 1887 until his death in 1935. He occupied the presidency of the Orange County Historical Society from its beginning in 1919 until his death. He also served a term in the California State Assembly.

Banning

Mary H. Banning bought 4000 acres of land in 1872 for \$17,500, to be farmed in grain. 150 acres of this was later sold to William Hof who, in 1891, became the first settler in Costa Mesa.

Bushard

In the 1860's John B. Bushard moved to California and established first a business of hauling goods from Bakersfield to the Los Angeles Area and to Prescott, Arizona. He later sold and invested in real estate, owning at one time 1800 acres of the Bolsa Ranch. He raised celery, sugar beets and beans on 190 acres of this land (purchased at \$10 an acre). (Tom Bushard is now deceased and was Superintendent of Parks in Huntington Beach.)

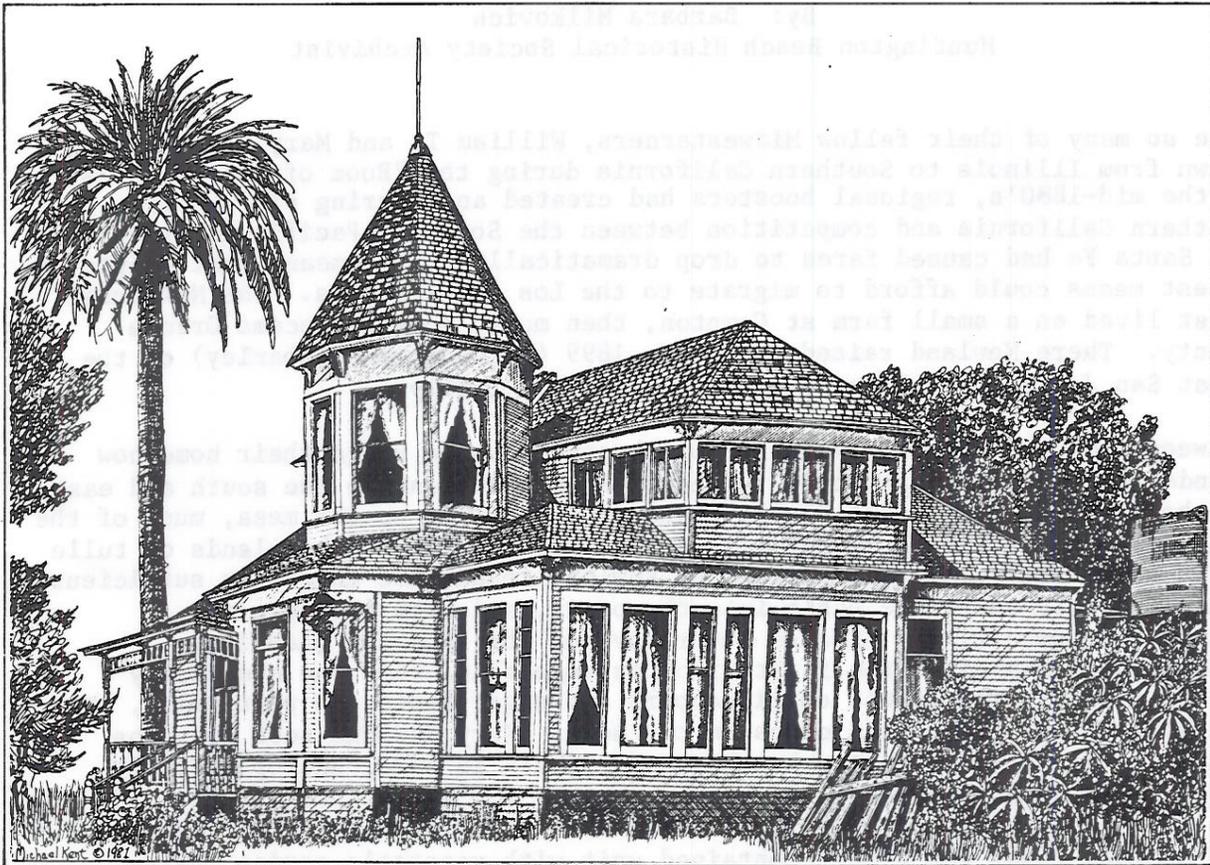
Caspers

Orange County Supervisor during the early 1970's who actively supported parks and open space in Orange County. Caspers Regional Park was named for him, after he died at sea.

Chapman

This co-founder of Orange County, A.B. Chapman, was one of the purchasers of a large southern portion of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana in 1868.

- Goodwin      Around 1886 the Josiah Goodwin family moved from Boston to one of the first farmhouses in Paularino. The little wooden farmhouse still stands.
- Gothard      The progressive spirit of Orange County was developed and exemplified in George Gothard and his son B. T. They were successful ranchers in Wintersburg (now part of Huntington Beach) growing celery, and in Anaheim growing walnuts. The sand and gravel pits along Gothard Street were on their property, and mining was started early in the century by this family.
- Hayes        John Hayes was one of the early settlers in Orange County. In the late 1800's he lived on the northwest corner of 19th and Orange.
- Hewes        David Hewes was an El Modena resident who, in 1869, donated a Golden Spike for the Transcontinental Railroad.
- Holt         Frank Holt and his brother Ansel opened Harper's (Costa Mesa's early name) second grocery store in May, 1914.
- Irvine        In 1864 James Irvine, and Flint and Bixby purchased two former Mexican land grants which included 109,000 acres. They started a sheep ranch on the property. James Irvine II inherited the ranch in 1892, experimenting with lima beans which were grown successfully for decades. The Irvine Ranch still includes thousands of acres of undeveloped land in the south and eastern parts of the county.
- Jefferson    Amos Jefferson sold four lots of land to the Fairview School District in April, 1891. Later that year he had the Fairview Hotel moved four blocks from where it stood, to right next to the hot mineral baths where he tried to establish a health resort.
- Knott        In 1927, Walter Knott started his famous berry growing in Anaheim. Knotts Berry Farm was first opened to the Public in 1940.
- Lambert      In 1924 W. T. Lambert became a member of the Board of Directors of one of the first banks in Garden Grove. Later he became the county auditor. Lambert was influential in bringing the poultry industry to the area. A younger member of the family was mayor of Huntington Beach during the 1960's.
- McFadden    James and Robert, the McFadden brothers, were in the shipping business, and established McFadden Wharf in Newport Beach in 1868, as the pioneer seaport for Orange County. Their ship "The Newport" was the inspiration of the name of that city.



*The Newland House  
Huntington Beach, California*

### *The Newland House*

This charming two-story farm house, built by W. T. and Mary Newland in 1898, stands on a mesa overlooking the lowlands at Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue. It has been meticulously restored by the Huntington Beach Historical Society and was recently listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

The Newland family lived here for fifty-four years, developing a highly productive agricultural region with the assistance of their neighbors. This fertile valley was recognized nationwide for the variety and excellence of its crops. In addition to their contribution to agriculture, the Newlands are remembered for their support of education, social services and commerce in the community.

The Newland House is located in the Newland Center near the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue. Tours are conducted the second Saturday and third Sunday of each month from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

For further information, call (714) 962-5777.

The dominate feature of the Newland House is the second floor tower room with its magnificent wide-ranging view. It was originally planned as an office for Mr. Newland but ultimately when he found it impractical, became a sewing room for Mrs. Newland. Other interesting areas include the sun room adjoining the dining room and the sleeping porch upstairs. Both were added in 1915. The society has decorated the house with close attention to authenticity so that each room contains fascinating household items which might have been in use when the house was headquarters for a busy ranch family and some fifty farm laborers.

The Newlands were widely respected and considered leaders in Huntington Beach. Newland bought stock in the West Coast Land and Water Company which developed the original village called Pacific City. Although he sold his stock within a few years, he retained an interest in the community and was active in the Board of Trade as well as the local celery growers associations. He also held stock or served on the board of directors of the local bank, now the Security Pacific Bank, the local newspaper, still the Huntington Beach News, and several industrial businesses. In 1906, he established the Huntington Beach Canning Company, and was instrumental in securing an electric railway route directly from Huntington Beach to Santa Ana. Still later, he served on the highway commission when Pacific Coast Highway was extended from Long Beach to Dana Point.

Because of their large family (7 daughters and 3 sons) the Newlands were interested in formal education. One of the legends about the origin of the city tells that Newland encouraged development in order to have enough families nearby to begin a school close to his property. As a result of their, and others' interest, an elementary school district was established in 1902 and a regional high school established in Huntington Beach before 1910. Both he and Mrs. Newland served on the high school or elementary school boards for many years.

After Mary Newland's death in 1952, the house was leased to Signal Oil Company and rented to their employees until 1972. At that time, it was presented to the City of Huntington Beach. For two years, it stood vacant, deteriorating. Finally, in 1974 the Huntington Beach Historical Society began the restoration of this landmark.

"Newland House Rose Garden," a small garden next to the house has been lovingly created using old roses and other plants representative of turn of the century horticulture. Here too, is a "smell and touch" trail of fragrant, highly textured plants for tactile enjoyment, as well as a herb display.

A highlight of the summer is the annual Turn of the Century Country Fair which welcomes the general public. This event has all the trappings of a turn of the century fair. Local artisans demonstrate old fashioned crafts and sell their hand created wares. Society members provide home made goodies for a bake sale and an old fashioned cake walk. The cake walk proceeds around the water tower, attracting young and old alike. Ice cream sundaes, clowns and strolling performers complete the atmosphere of this lively, nostalgic day.

## REBIRTH OF A LANDMARK

### THE HUNTINGTON BEACH PIER

#### THE CHALLENGE

The citizens and businessmen of Huntington Beach have lived without their landmark Municipal Pier since July 12, 1988, when it was declared unsafe after fierce storms of the previous January ripped off the end 250 feet, including the two year old "End Cafe". Since that time, a grass roots campaign to rebuild the Pier has gathered momentum. The campaign produced a unique public/private partnership to fund the project, a strong construction team, novel cost-effective construction techniques and, ultimately, a very successful project. Highlights of the campaign included sales of tee shirts and other "Pieraphernalia" by the P.I.E.R. (Persons Interested in Expediting Reconstruction) Citizens Committee which has raised well over \$100,000; the annual "Run for the Pier"; the First Annual "Battle of the Surf Bands"; a \$92,000 check from the Mayor of Anjo, Japan, our sister city; and a very low bid. The fruits of all that labor culminated in a weekend bash in July that none of the locals will ever forget.

Huntington Beach, originally a farming community along the Orange County coast, south of Los Angeles, was incorporated in 1909. In 1920, oil was discovered and the small village quickly mushroomed into a full-fledged boom town. Pacific Coast Highway was constructed in 1925, opening up access to 8 1/2 miles of virgin beach and ushering in the City's gradual transition to what is now known as "Surf City". By the 50's and 60's, Huntington Beach had become the fastest growing city in the nation. With a population of 181,000, the City is now world renowned for its surfing waves and is becoming a destination resort.

The first Huntington Beach pier, a 1,000 foot long timber structure, was built in 1904, five years before the City's incorporation. In 1912, winter storms nearly destroyed the pier, and a \$70,000 bond issue was approved by the voters to build a new one. The new 1,350 foot long concrete pier, at the foot of Main Street, was dedicated in June of 1914. This pier was the longest, highest and only solid concrete pleasure pier in the United States at that time.

In 1930, the pier was lengthened by 500 feet with a cafe at the end. In 1939, a hurricane destroyed the end of the pier and the cafe. After reconstruction, it was re-opened in 1940. In 1941, the Navy commandeered the pier for submarine watch during World War II.

Forty years had passed when, in March of 1983, storms severely damaged the end of the pier and the cafe necessitating demolition and closure. In September, 1985, the rehabilitated pier re-opened with a new two story "End Cafe", only to be washed away again on January 18, 1988.

#### THE SOLUTION

In July of 1988, Fluor/Daniel Consultants, of Irvine, California, submitted their final report regarding the structural stability of the pier. Based upon their findings, the pier was declared unsafe and thus closed. Noble Consultants, also of Irvine, developed oceanographic design criteria for wave characteristics, bottom profiles and beach stability. Underwater surveys were conducted by Scientific Surveys, of San Diego, California. The Fluor/Daniel report indicated that repairing the existing pier was not a cost effective approach. Therefore, in April, 1989, the Huntington Beach City Council selected Moffatt and Nichol Engineers, of Long Beach, California to design a new pier.

In July, 1990, construction bids were opened. Riedel International, a 35-year old firm from Portland, Oregon, submitted a remarkably low bid of \$8.6 million, \$2.8 million lower than the next lowest bidder and \$2.6 million under the engineer's estimate. Riedel's Vice President, Jerry Nelson, stated the reasons for coming in with such a low bid, which included: (1) incorporating the pre-casting of concrete deck sections rather than the previously specified cast

## HUNTINGTON BEACH

### FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

A proud and spirited group of Firefighters in the City of Huntington Beach present the following brief history of Huntington Beach and our Fire Department.

"Dozens of streams laced the countryside. Artesian springs bubbled, while flocks of birds so thick as to almost blot out the sun soared and wheeled overhead."

The thousands of new residents pouring into Huntington Beach are unaware that this was the picture when the nucleus of their community was created exactly 145 years ago.

It was on May 22, 1834 that a section of the vast Spanish possession known as the "Nietos Grant" was split off. Named Las Bolsas (the pockets of bays), it covered 21 square miles, from which the cities of Huntington Beach, Westminster, Garden Grove and Talbert communities have arisen.

It was granted by Mexican Governor Jose Figueroa to Catarina Ruiz, the widow of one of the Nietos. Ex-soldier Manuel Nieto had been given what it now the west half of Orange County plus land in the Whittier area.

Nietos died in 1804, but it wasn't until 30 years later his holdings were divided at the request of his heirs. Seven years after that, the 6-square-mile rancho to the northwest, Bolsa Chica (little pocket), was split off and granted to Joaquin Ruiz.

In the 1850's both Bolsa Chica and Las Bolsas came under the ownership of Abel Stearns, who became the largest owner of land and cattle in Southern California. A native of Massachusetts, he came to California in 1829 and settled as a trader in Los Angeles in 1833.

Even as late as March 11, 1889, when the new county of Orange was created out of the southeast part of Los Angeles County, the land was still largely "rancho", the scene predominated by streams and lush grazing plains.

The Stearns Rancho Company ran cattle and horses and raised grain on the property and decided to sell the "swamp" as least desirable.

Little by little the area along the beach began to take on character...albeit what it may, and the beach took on the name of Shell Beach...but with the introduction of the year 1901 the name was changed to Pacific City as a local syndicate formed by P. A. Stanton purchased 40 acres at the beach and subdivided 20 acres along what is now both sides of Main Street. The dream to rival Atlantic City was that of Mr. Stanton and not shared by too many others in his day. His year of activity ended as Stanton sold out in 1902 to Henry F. Huntington and the Huntington Beach Company... and the Pacific Electric Railway came to the seaside community which was renamed Huntington Beach in 1904.

The city was incorporated in February, 1909 with Ed Manning as the first mayor. The original townsite consisted of 3.57 square miles, with a population of 915; and remained so until 1957 when a series of annexations began.

Mayor Manning asked John Philip, a hardware merchant, to organize a volunteer fire company. On March 15, 1909, twenty men held the first meeting and organized the Huntington Beach Volunteer Fire Department with John Philip elected Fire Chief.

Brush fires in these early days were handled by using burlap sacks. They wet the sacks and literally went around the edge of a field and beat out the fire with the wet burlap sacks.

Early day fires were somewhat different in types and cause. Cooking was done on wood stoves using wood or dried peat or use of a two burner kerosene stove. Kerosene stoves were common causes of fires. Cigarette smoking was not common until after World War I so there were very few fires caused by careless smoking. Most houses were heated with fireplaces, using wood or coal. Many fires were caused by hot coals popping out onto the wooden hearth. Internal combustion fires were common due to storage and use of hay in small barns. Automobiles were coming into use and it was common practice to dispense gasoline in the barn causing numerous explosions and fires. Generally, the people in Huntington Beach were careful and in the first 20 years only one fire occurred in a downtown business and not too many fires in houses.

By 1918 the town had grown to the point that mechanized fire apparatus was needed. A sheet metal shed was built at the new City Hall on Fifth Street to house the equipment. A Model "T" Ford truck was purchased with two mounted forty gallon chemical extinguishers and 100 foot long 1" chemical hoses. At this time no other fire equipment was located west of the Santa Ana River and our fire department answered alarms throughout the farming area to the north and east of town.

An oil boom in 1920 created a need to reorganize the Fire Department. It was apparent the present Volunteer Fire Department lacked adequate manpower and equipment to serve the rapid growth of the City and the rash of oil fires. Oil industry employment increased the population from 1,400 to 6,000. A bond issue election was held to purchase a motorized pumper from Seagrave Corporation at a cost of \$10,000. The 750 gallon per minute pumper was capable of carrying 1,500 feet of 2½" fire hose, 200 feet of 1½" fire hose and other equipment. It had a 20 gallon soda and acid chemical tank with 100 feet of 1" booster hose. The pumper carried the boots, helmets and coats of the volunteer firemen. The young men returning from World War I, with the assistance of the American Legion, made up the nucleus of the new Volunteer Fire Department. The City Council consolidated the Police and Fire Department under the management of the Chief of Police. It was necessary to have a full-time paid driver for the new pumper. Jack Kenneth, a licensed driver from Corona, was employed to serve as first aid fireman and fire engineer. He resided in the fire station and worked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A five horsepower, double-end siren was purchased and mounted at City Hall to alert the volunteers. Standard Oil Company mounted a large steamboat whistle at their boiler house to provide the same service. In 1923, a new pay schedule was adopted. Volunteers received the sum of \$5.00 for each fire for the first three hours and \$1.00 per hour for each remaining hour. A two hour drill paid \$2.00.

In 1924 the Fire Department moved into new quarters at Fifth and Orange Street. It was the first time they had adequate fire headquarters. It had two stalls, each containing two fire pumpers and a six man dormitory providing space for two additional paid firefighters. In 1927, a second pumper was purchased.

One of the largest fires in the City's history took place in 1927 when the Alfred Gasoline Company Plant on 18th and Olive Streets exploded and set fire to all the derricks, wiping out the entire block. The loss exceeded several million dollars. This major fire established the need to separate the Fire and Police Departments. In 1928, James K. Sargeant, was appointed Fire Chief. He chose as his Assistant Chief, Mr. Delbert E. Burry, of the Southern California Water Company.

In early 1966, Assistant Chief Reardon retired. Recruitment for an Assistant Chief was instituted and Ray Picard, Battalion Chief, Pasadena Fire Department was appointed to the position. He worked with Chief Higgins for one year and was appointed Fire Chief upon Chief Higgins retirement in 1967. The first 85 foot snorkel truck was delivered and 20 men graduated from the fire academy the day Chief Higgins retired. A modern fire department was about to be born. A battalion chief training officer was selected to establish a training program and supervise the 16 volunteer firemen still in use at our outlying fire station.

As the city continued to grow, so did the need for fire protection. Seven strategically located fire stations, housing eight 3-man engine companies, two 4-man truck companies and two 2-man paramedic companies, rounded out the needs of the City. A well planned joint powers authority was established to provide communications, joint standard training, cross boundary responses, incident reporting and arson investigation for Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster and Seal Beach. This program provided both outstanding cost savings to the four cities and an innovative approach to fire protection.

PRIVATE CALIFORNIA BEVEL COMPANY 1966 - 1967

At some time after acquiring the mid-reaches lands called Pacific City, the investor (undoubtedly the site was owned Huntington Beach by the name of the Huntington Beach Company) in the spring of 1966, the same year as July 4th the first attempt was made to acquire the land for development. The Huntington Beach Company made public improvements which included a water system. The lack of a specific date of commencement of service is not known. It was one of the first completed elements of the municipal infrastructure.

The first State of California Water Commission Decision on Huntington Beach, dated August 19, 1971, was approval of the water rates of the Huntington Beach Company. On December 1, 1971 the Commission issued rules and regulations for operation of the Huntington Beach Water Company. At this time the Huntington Beach Company had spun off the water business to an wholly-owned subsidiary, Huntington Beach Water Company, so that it could deal separately with the operations of the Public Utility Act.

In 1972 Huntington Beach Water Company engaged a Los Angeles based engineering firm to review the viability of its operation. At the time, 1,700 properties were being watered and, in addition, water was being delivered to the city. From a number of sources of revenue resulted in a good rate of return and the consultant recommended the development of a new source of water supply to the north of the city. Subsequently a well field and water tank stands and put in service, located on Golden West Street, north of LaBelle Avenue.

A Los Angeles investor purchased Huntington Beach Water Company in 1973. In 1974 American States Title Service Company, a Chicago financial institution holding company became interested and by the fall of 1975 the American States Water Company of California was formed to manage these two assets. In the ensuing years this company suffered the troubles of the

depression and eventually the courts ordered a distribution of the common stock. Sufficient stock holdings were gathered so that in 1936 the Southern California Water Company was formed. This company operated in Huntington Beach and other Orange County communities.

From 1936 until purchase of the property in 1964 by the City of Huntington Beach, Southern California Water Company operated and increased its services within the "Old Town" area of Huntington Beach. At the time of acquisition Southern California Water Company was serving 2,825 customers, mostly residential. Included was the Southern California Edison steam generating plant, the largest customer, consuming an average of two million cubic feet per month for boiler feed water. Sea water was used for cooling.

In 1956 a residential subdivision in county jurisdiction, located southeast of the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Talbert Avenue, was developed and water service was provided by Dyke Water Company. Dyke, a private investment operation, provided water from a single well to the 163 homes. Its object was to offer revenue producing minimal water service, but inadequate for fire purposes. This system was acquired by the City in June 1967 after annexation. Services were then metered and the system was tied in to distribution mains, giving the area a guarantee of continuity of service and ample water for fire protection.

Water was provided to the Surfside-Sunset Beach area by the Sunset Beach Water Company. With the development of off-street parking up-coast from Warner Avenue by the County, City water mains were extended through the project to Anderson Street to provide fire service. As the area redeveloped to a higher intensity use, including multi-story structures, Sunset Beach Water Company could no longer meet service requirements and was acquired by the City in June 1966.

Several small water companies served limited areas of old subdivisions bordering Beach Boulevard. All provided an adequate but minimal service to customers or association members. As development occurred main extensions passed through these areas to serve new construction and afforded an opportunity for water from the City to those properties being served by the private water operation. There was the usual reluctance of those served to take City water; taste and metering being the main concerns. The City did not insist that service be taken but stood back and let nature take its course. As zoning changed, the over-sized lots redeveloped to multiple use. The little systems could not supply them and they had to take City service. At the same time fire heads were installed, insurance rates decreased and further development accelerated.

In 1957 the following small companies were operating: R. J. Curry Tract, west of Beach Boulevard at Newman Street, 10 services; Liberty Park Water Association, west of Beach Boulevard at Liberty Street, 52 Services; Boulevard Water Company, Inc., west of Beach Boulevard and south of Edinger Avenue, 107 services; Moore Mutual Water Company, Inc. west of Beach, south of Warner Avenue, 60 services.

The first construction of housing was in the north and northwest; always abutting or within an economical distance of West Orange County Feeder No. 1. Due to the demand for homes, developers continuously constructed the basic 12-inch and 8-inch master planned mains.

In 1961 the first water well was developed to supplement imported water.

A second bond issue, in 1963, was presented to the voters and carried by a 94-percent yes vote. These bonds funded the acquisition of Southern California Water Company, construction of West Orange County Feeder No. 2 and a joint venture transmission line with Costa Mesa County Water District to bring water from San Joaquin Reservoir to the east city limits on Adams Avenue, and for other miscellaneous projects.

Despite the rapid growth, water system development remained abreast or ahead of the demands put upon it. Trunk water mains up to 42-inch diameter, interconnected with two West Orange County Feeders and the East Feeder on Adams Avenue. Fourteen and 16-inch trunks were extended to ensure adequate services to the geographically isolated extremities of the system.

Reservoir capacity was, between 1961 and 1972, increased to 170.5 million gallons; 24.5 MG at Overmeyer, 16.0 MG at Peck, and 130.0 MG at San Joaquin Reservoirs.

Water well development has been ongoing and by 1983 there were nine wells in service capable of producing 25,000 GPM. These wells alone are capable of supplying the total average daily water consumption of the city. Of course, such production is not realized. Huntington Beach is fully aware of the necessity of protecting and conserving the underground source and produces within the limits of rules governing use of the basin.

Good planning and financing has resulted in an outstanding water operation. Monies advanced from general funds in the years before the water operation paid its own way have been repaid. The present operation pays for interest and redemption on the outstanding bonds. The staff of the Water Division today is an extremely professional group.

A detailed current report of status can be found in the October 1983 Public Information Report by the Water Division of the Department of Public Works.

Blowouts and oil fires complicated the oil recovery process and whenever there was a disaster, Stricklin was usually in the midst of the rough going.

"There is a vegetable gas in this area about 1,800 feet down. When they drilled down that far they would hit these gas pockets and it would blow out," he recalled. "It would blow the rig down and cut the timbers all up. I've seen rocks bigger than your fist fly up in the air and cut the timbers all up."

"We had water and pumps of our own in the fields to fight fires. We would hook up a hose to a pump and the fire department did what it could, but it just wasn't equipped to handle them."

## THE HUNTINGTON BEACH TIDELANDS CONTROVERSY

By Floyd G. Belsito - 1965

### INTRODUCTION

The controversial issue of who owns the tidelands within the corporate limits of the City of Huntington Beach has been hotly contested for over thirty years. The two contestants who loomed largest in the issue were the City of Huntington Beach, and the Standard Oil Company of California. Numerous times this issue was brought before the state legislature and the people, and on every occasion it ended to the disgruntlement of the City Huntington Beach.

### HYPOTHESES

My hypotheses is that public opinion, initiated by the citizens of the City of Huntington Beach, their elected representatives and other influential figures, was successful in forcing both the State of California and the Standard Oil Company of California to yield their positions concerning the allocation of tidelands rights to the City of Huntington Beach.

### HISTORY

To thoroughly understand the problem, it is necessary to retreat to the early pioneering days of wildcat drilling in Huntington Beach. In the late 1920's geologists, after thorough examinations, stated that the submerged lands off the shore of the City contained in excess of seven million barrels of oil that represented a wealth of hundreds of millions of dollars.

At the time of this discovery, Standard Oil had acquired land along the beach front and had set up operations for straight-down drilling. A wildcat group of three people, McCallen, McVicar and Rood, were indirectly responsible for bringing the tidelands issue to the public's attention. McVicar had invented the removable whipstock that enabled a person to slant drill instead of the standard straight-down drilling. This group of three men sent their pipe lines down, under the Standard Oil wells, and out into the ocean. Before they were discovered, they had succeeded in becoming quite wealthy.

Finally they were challenged by the Standard Oil Company over their right to drill beneath Standard's string of wells. Oscar Lawler, chief counsel for Standard Oil contended that underwater trespass was similar to a burglar digging underground and coming up in the money vault of a bank.

The Huntington Beach News, who assumed the position of advocate of the independent operators, held that oil was a migratory mineral which in the case of the billion dollar tideland oil pool had been placed there not by Standard Oil, but by God.

Gradually public opinion veered to the side of the independent and in the course of time the Standard Oil Company not only yielded gracefully, but made business friends and associates of the independents they had formerly opposed.

Public opinion had become so strong that in early 1931, the Huntington Beach City Council sent a request to the state legislature to initiate a bill that would give Huntington Beach its tidelands rights. Huntington Beach was one of very few cities that was denied this privilege.

Thus, Assembly Bill No. 4 was drafted that would, if approved, grant to the City of Huntington Beach all the right, title and interest of the State of California, held by said state by virtue of its sovereignty, in and to all tidelands and submerged lands, whether filled or unfilled situated below the line of mean high tide of the Pacific Ocean, within the present boundaries of said City or of any harbor, bay or inlet within said boundaries, to be forever held by said City, upon the following conditions:

- (a) the lands to be granted shall be used by the City for the promotion of commerce, naviga-

command upon the Governor to protect their marbles and to see that the community from which they took them did not get any of them back.

The Governor decided to placate both sides, and hit upon the expediency of stalling the issue, by announcing a public hearing of the matter on June 17, 1931. The results of the meeting were so discouraging that Mayor E. G. Conrad of Huntington Beach issued a statement to Governor Rolph expressing his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the hearing was held, and the inconclusive results attained.

The meeting was attended by over fifty leading citizens of Orange County, including mayors, councilmen, secretaries and presidents of chambers of commerce from practically every city and community in Orange County. Also in attendance were the Supervisors of Orange County, Assemblymen and a State Senator. All of them were there to ask the Governor to sign the bill. But, due to the method of handling the meeting, they had no opportunity to be heard.

On June 19, 1931, as had been predicted by a Standard Oil lobbyist, Governor Rolph refused to sign Assembly Bill No. 4. This was the first time in the history of California that a Governor ever vetoed a bill that was unanimously passed by both houses of the legislature.

The issue did not remain dormant for very long. On May 19, 1932, a petition concerning tidelands rights bearing 803 local signatures was presented to the Huntington Beach City Council. It petitioned the Mayor and the City Council to approve a proposed amendment to the state constitution. This amendment would provide for the granting to Huntington Beach of tidelands owned by the State located within the corporate limits of Huntington Beach. This bill which was to be brought to the attention of the voters in the form of an initiative, was identical with Assembly Bill No 4, that was unanimously passed by both houses of the state legislature at its last session, but was vetoed by Governor Rolph.

The City of Huntington Beach had executed a contingent lease with the state providing for a royalty of 16-2/3%, one half to go to the state, and one half to the City. Also, a bonus of \$100,000 was included for the first oil produced.

The lease executed with the Pacific Exploration Co. Ltd., as the third party provided for oil drilling in the tidelands from the west city limits, to 17th Street, and extending one mile out into the ocean. It carried a provision that the lease would not go into effect unless the people of the state adopted the initiative tideland measure to be voted upon in November, 1932.

Once again opposition developed rapidly against the initiative. The main argument was that the danger of beach pollution from wells drilled in the surf and the harm done by the uninspiring sight of oil wells in the ocean lent itself to any campaign against tideland drilling.

Interest and enthusiasm rapidly mounted in favor of the tidelands amendments. Twenty solicitors were assigned to Orange County in the state wide drive to secure the necessary 35,000 signatures to insure the amendment appearing on the November ballot.

The Huntington Beach City Council called a special meeting on July 28, 1931, for the purpose of entering into a new tideland drilling lease with the Pacific Exploration Co., Ltd. A technical error had appeared in the first lease which was eliminated in the revised instrument. The clause which specifically stated that the lease wouldn't be effective until the voters of the state had given tidelands to the City of Huntington Beach was stricken. Under the law you cannot change or correct a lease, but must cancel and enter into a new lease.

Max Felix, chief counsel of Standard Oil, submitted a protest against the proposed lease by Pacific Exploration Co., Ltd. He stated, "It has come to our attention that Pacific Exploration Company is offering for sale a purported oil lease covering the southwesterly thirty feet of Ocean Avenue in Huntington Beach extending from the northwesterly boundary of the city limits to the westerly line of 23rd Street. Our examination of the claim of title to this real property

State Director of Finance Vandegrift gave, as the main reason why the state failed to accept royalty voluntarily offered by Standard Oil, the changed conditions due to whipstock drilling into the tidelands. Standard Oil offered this royalty in 1933 to compensate for any possible damage of state tidelands by its Pacific Electric wells on the Huntington Beach bluff. This offer was made as a means of removing any possible source of friction and also to contribute to the needs of the state for additional revenue. Standard Oil had contended that a fault intervened between its wells and the tideland pools, thus removing the possibility of purposeful draining.

Director Vandegrift said that the whipstocked wells were doing many times the amount of damage to state lands that the Standard Oil wells could have done. He said that any drainage by Standard Oil wells was legal as they were not drilled at an angle with a deliberate intention of penetrating the state lands. Therefore, any drainage that ensued was accidental and did not constitute trespass. Also, he stated that Standard Oil was in itself an injured party because of the wells that were drilled through its property. These wells inadvertently damaged the Standard Oil wells and drained its strip as well as the state lands.

On August 2, 1934, Standard Oil and the state won the whipstocking case in court which resulted in the curtailment of off-shore drilling by the independents.

While the litigation concerning the whipstocking case was taking place, another bill was introduced into the Assembly on July 19, 1933, by Mr. Cronin. This bill was very similar to Assembly Bill No. 4 that was pocket vetoed in 1931. This bill was approved by the Assembly on July 21, 1933, by a vote of 54-23. But, it died in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

The City of Huntington Beach did not take defeat easily. On April 11, 1935, the City Council supported a measure that would permit the City to enter into a new tidelands lease with The Southwest Exploration Company. Assembly Bill No 1684 was introduced into the Legislature. The bill as originally presented provided for a flat 16 2/3% royalty to the state with an amendment entitled "The Hornblower Amendment" attached. This amendment provided for open competitive bidding and condemnation of property of littoral land owners. The Assembly voted approval for open competitive bidding, but struck out the Hornblower Amendment. This brought the City of Huntington Beach back into the picture with its royalty rights protected. The bill as approved by both houses would enable the City to share in royalties of from 3% to 4½%. It also provided for the leasing of the tidelands to the littoral land owners. The bill was then sent to Governor Merriam to be signed. Once again the fate of the City's tidelands rights rested with a reluctant Governor. As if history repeated itself Governor Merriam killed the bill by "pocket veto".

Since 1935 there have been other attempts by the City to obtain what they consider to be their just dessert. None of these attempts had been successful. Finally in 1963, Assemblyman James E. Whetmore introduced a measure into the Assembly that would provide a rebate of state tidelands oil revenues to local beaches. This rebate would amount to 1% of tidelands revenues. In the case of Huntington Beach this would initially amount to an annual sum of \$56,000, increasing proportionately each year. A small sum in contrast to what it would have received under previous attempts. The bill had received a boost by Governor Edmund G. Brown. This was the first time a Governor looked favorably upon a tidelands bill. The Governor made it known that he intended to write a letter to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to clear the way for that unit to hear the measure before the budget was handled. Until the Governor's statement, the bill entitled Assembly Bill No. 1151 had been stalled in committee. With the Governor's obvious backing, it was apparent that the City of Huntington Beach was on the threshold of achieving the fruits of its labor. On May 15, 1963, the Assembly passed AB 1151 by a vote of 76-0. On June 15, 1963, the Senate passed the bill 32-0. And, at long last, Governor Brown signed the bill into law.

#### CONCLUSION

It is apparent that public opinion, initiated by the citizens of the City of Huntington Beach, their elected representatives and other influential figures was reflected in the voting behavior of the State Legislature. But, in the final analysis, it was the realization by an enthusiastic Governor of the benefits to be received by both the State and the City of Huntington Beach that enabled the Bill to become law.

One fire during the 1930's was so severe that it disrupted passenger service on the Pacific Electric Railway, according to Stricklin, "The fire got so hot that it melted the pavement on Pacific Coast Highway and on the ocean side of the PE tracks," claims the former oil man.

The heat expanded the rail and buckled it so it rose as much as three feet above the ground. It took us pretty near a week before we got that one stopped.

After the depression years Stricklin acquired some land on which he started one of his sons in the bean farming business. Digging for a drainage ditch he uncovered two Indian skeletons.

That find, however, compared only mildly to a mass grave on Slater Avenue which was broken open by another farmer during the 1920's, according to Stricklin.

Stricklin took some of his men to the grave and helped the farmer uncover 36 skeletons whose origin remain a mystery to him.

"There were that many in an area about 10 feet square. Some of them were actually sitting up, others were stooped over and some were lying down flat," he wrote.

"We didn't take them out. We'd uncover them and get all the dirt away from them and just leave them sitting there. It was a gruesome sight. Nobody knows whether it was a massacre or whether they had died and were put there, or whether they drowned in a flood. We called the people from the state and they put them in a museum somewhere."

By Rudi Niedzielski - Daily Pilot Staff 12/15/71

### Barley Field Area

The next area of drilling activity, known then as the Barley Field area and lying northwest of 23rd Street (Goldenwest Street) between Pacific Coast Highway and Clay Street, was developed slowly by the Standard Oil Company of California between 1922 and 1926.

### Townlot Area

In April 1926, drilling restrictions were lifted in the Townlot area between 17th Street and 23rd Street (Goldenwest Street) which led to the discovery in July 1926, of the Jones sand by the Superior Oil Company when they completed "Jones" No. 1 at 3,063 feet flowing at the rate of 472 barrels of 17 gravity oil per day. "Jones" No. 1 is located at the corner of 22nd Street and Pacific Coast Highway. According to Hazenbush and Allen<sup>2</sup>, this interval was probably the Stray sand, which is actually about 350 feet above what is now commonly called the Jones sand.

### Townlot Area--Lower or Main Zone

In September 1926, Wilshire Oil Company discovered what was called the Lower or Main zone in the Townlot area, when they deepened "H.B." No. 1 at the corner of 22nd Street and Walnut Avenue to a depth of 4,074 feet, flowing 700 barrels per day of 24.6 gravity oil. Intensive drilling activity followed, which led to some of the closest well spacing in California history. Many wells were drilled on 25 x 117-1/2 foot lots with production reaching a maximum of 63,400 barrels of oil per day from 78 wells in the area.

### Townlot Area--Tar(Bolsa) Zone

During the development of the Lower or Main zone in the Townlot area, shallow oil sands were noticed while drilling some of the wells. In November 1926, McKeon Drilling Company, Inc. completed "Dubois" No. 1 at 1,952 feet, producing 200 barrels of 14 gravity oil per day. This completion led to another mild flurry of activity and a drilling campaign to develop the Tar (Bolsa) sands in the Townlot area.

### Five Points Area

Development of the Five Points area began in April 1936, when Twentieth Century Oil Company completed "Schaaf-Bruce" No. 1 on the south side of Ellis Avenue, east of Beach Boulevard. Completed in the upper Ashton zone, low production rates and a thin zone kept activity in this area to a minimum and a major book failed to materialize.

### Signal--Bolsa Lease

The year 1940 saw Signal Companies, Inc. developing the Signal-Bolsa lease which was an offset to the Standard-Bolsa lease. Although a productive area, its development was orderly and uneventful from a historical standpoint.

### Townlot Area--Upper Tar (Middle Bolsa)

In 1946 and 1947 interest was renewed in the Tar zone Bolsa of the Townlot area. O.L. Bolton drilled "Mize" No. 1, at the corner of 20th Street and Orange Avenue, in April, 1947. Completed in the upper Tar (middle Bolsa) zone, this well initially produced 60 barrels of 13.5 gravity oil per day. This produced another flurry of drilling, resulting in 136 new Tar zone wells 1949. Initial production of these wells varied between 10 and 100 barrels of 12.5 to 14 gravity oil per day.

### Southeasterly Extension of Townlot Area

Jack Crawford is generally credited with the discovery of the Southwesterly extension of the Townlot area, however, A.L. Hunter, W.C. Bradford and D.R. Allen state that it was Clark C. Peterson's redrilling of the abandoned well "Brower" No. 1 in August 1953, near the corner of Huntington Avenue and Chicago Street, which initiated the latest drilling flurry in the Huntington Beach Field.

This well flowed at an initial rate of 500 barrels of gravity oil per day for 3 days, but production declined rapidly leading to the eventual abandonment of the well. The activity following completion of this well resulted in Jack Crawford, et al, drilling "Huntington" No. 1 at the northeast corner of Atlanta Street and Huntington Avenue. "Huntington" No. 1 was completed on March 8, 1954 with an initial production of 200 barrels of 25.8 gravity crude per day.

The latest flurry within the Huntington Beach Field was beginning! Encouraged by this success, Huntington Syndicate drilled and completed wells "Huntington Syndicate" No. 2 and No. 3 to the west in the same Main Zone, each producing at the rate of 150 barrels of 26 gravity oil per day.

## OIL FORTUNES THAT WERE GAINED FROM BOOKS

Here is one of those impossible stories that is nevertheless true:  
How unwanted books and unsalable beach lots made hundreds  
of thousands for unsuspecting buyers

By K. Philip Frederick  
(1935)

They sought culture, twenty years ago back on a bleak New England home-  
stead, and found a fortune. Aladdin rubbed his lamp for these forthright folk  
and gave them oil. It all has to do with a promoter, and a printer – a tale that  
can be compared only with the fable of Cinderella.

The promoter bought a few acres on the edge of what was then something of a  
mythical townsite – Huntington Beach, on the north coast of Orange County.  
The promoter had nothing more definite in mind than to sell the few acres, as  
twenty-five foot town lots, to a public eagerly purchasing town lots most  
anywhere in Southern California. The boom of that fragrant period in South-  
land promotion faded before the promoter could subdivide his land and place  
the lots on the market.

Meanwhile there was a printer back in old New England, who had invested in a  
set of plates of a then-new encyclopedia. He had printed and bound several  
thousand copies of the set, but the public seemed as loath to buy encyclopedias  
as town lots. His warehouse was full, but buyers there were scarce.

On the scene steps the mutual friend – with the result that the Huntington  
Beach town lot promoter and the New England printer came to terms.

In those days, when New England was a snowbound and as hidebound as tradi-  
tion paints her, California was a far off land of romance and tradition. Cali-  
fornia, to the New Englander of that day and age, meant something akin to the  
Puritan interpretation of the gateway to Paradise.

Hence, when suddenly there burst upon the New Englander's consciousness,  
through the medium of the local weekly press and a few standard daily jour-  
nals, advertisements informing him that he could, for the payment of a small  
sum down and a mortgage on the future, secure that fount of all knowledge, a  
modern encyclopedia, together with a city lot in the booming town of Hunt-  
ington Beach, California, overlooking the blue Pacific and within shooting  
distance of the orange groves, the reaction was miraculous. Sets of the ency-  
clopedia cluttered marble-topped tables in New England from Bangor to  
Boston.

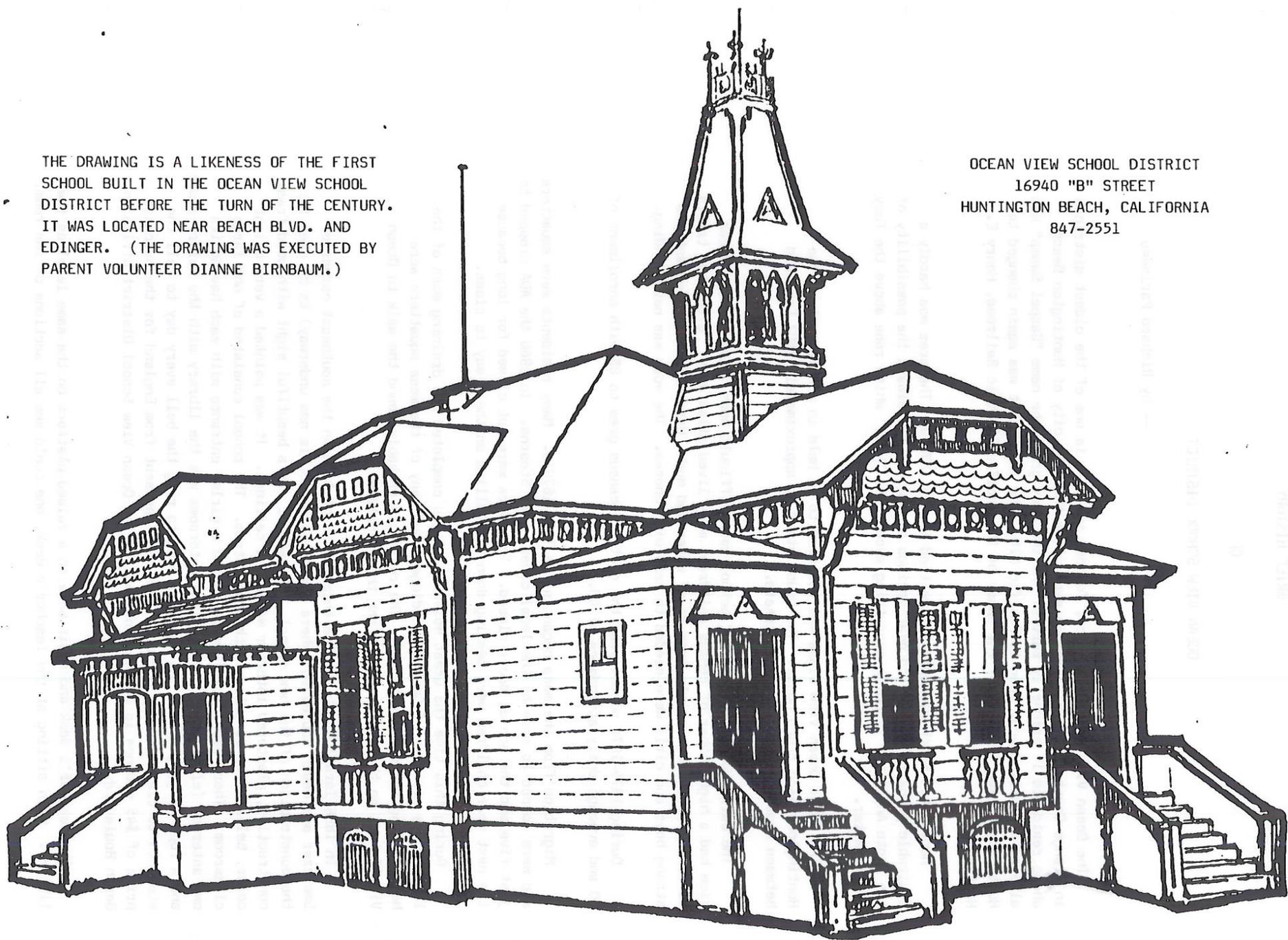
The California promoter sold out, and so did the printer. But "Ezra Hicks" and  
his fellow New Englanders paid the bill – and through the nose and whiskers  
many of them thought. The encyclopedias helped Nellie and Johnnie acquire  
an education – but somehow there never was money enough left over to carry  
any member of the family out to California to view or occupy that "free" town  
lot.

Ezra Hapfield is gone now, but his last days were happy and carefree. But Hattie lives on in the cottage, while Donald finishes college. They may move on to their sizable orange ranch in Orange County as soon as Donald graduates. And still the oil checks come in—from that encyclopedia well.

This is no fairy tale, or perhaps it is one which came true—for any visitor to Huntington Beach these days can drive out past the handsome high school, built largely with oil tax revenues, and come to the section of derricks known as the Encyclopedia Wells. There are the wells, pumping away and pouring their black gold, as they have steadily for the past twelve years, into the bank accounts of scores of families in which some member, in the years gone by, took a flier at an education with a real estate side line, and bought an encyclopedia.

THE DRAWING IS A LIKENESS OF THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILT IN THE OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. IT WAS LOCATED NEAR BEACH BLVD. AND EDINGER. (THE DRAWING WAS EXECUTED BY PARENT VOLUNTEER DIANNE BIRNBAUM.)

OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT  
16940 "B" STREET  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA  
847-2551



**OCEAN VIEW - 1874 - 1974**

When the opportunity arose, the platform was used as a stage. In the southwest corner of the school room was a large wood stove. The boys took care of the wood and kept the fire going. On occasion the boys would bore a hole in the wood where they placed a bullet. A loud noise would come from the old stove and distract the students for just a minute, and of course, a few would smile.

The population around the school was growing. In 1892 an addition was placed on the back of the original building. The accuracy of carpentry was so precise that most of the Ocean View students from 1891 to 1913 thought the addition was part of the original building.

Population was again on the increase and in 1900 an addition was built next to the two-room schoolhouse. It contained two rooms and housed the primary grades.

The population increased more rapidly in an area called Wintersburg on Warner near Gothard. Land was purchased and a school building was constructed on the southwest corner of Beach Boulevard and Wintersburg (Warner Avenue).

The students left their old school for their 1912 vacation, never to return. The bell tower no longer held the bell as it was moved to the new school.

After Christmas vacation, the pupils moved to their new school. The new building housed four classrooms and a basement. The basement was used for play on rainy days, and also for restrooms. In 1923 an auditorium was built and furnished with 400 seats. Three classrooms were added to the main building. A two-class primary room was added in 1927.

Ocean View School and adjacent Springdale districts combined in 1946. With this increase in enrollment the district made plans for a new school. The new school was completed in 1949 just south of the present school. The new school had eight classrooms, administration offices and cafeteria. This school now provides the offices for the district. The old two-story building was demolished in 1953.

The 1950's was a period for the district to prepare and buy land for the growth ahead. Population of the city of Huntington Beach increased from 11,492 to 115,557 in 1970. In 1963 Huntington Beach was the fastest growing city in the nation. During this ten-year period, 21 schools were constructed.

In April of 1974 the district will launch its 25th school, Nueva View, a special education facility.

to land developers in the thirties when a peat fire started and burned out of control. Farmers flooded their fields to stop it.

The instability of the peat has produced considerable concern for builders. The Westminster Shopping Mall was built on "rollers" or loose material so that it floats on the ground. It is a funny sensation to be upstairs in the Mall and feel it shift.

The peat has produced a very unstable subsoil that is a prime candidate for liquefaction. Heavy traffic passing the new Westminster City Hall caused microseismic activity of sorts which resulted in the liquefaction of the peat. The city hall developed such serious structural problems that it was condemned.

Matters are not helped any by the proximity of the very active Newport-Inglewood fault zone (a 3.8 sharp jolt was produced April 4--this last week). This fault produced the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake (the epicenter of which was about four miles southeast of Huntington Beach High School) and the 1812 Capistrano Earthquake that destroyed Capistrano Mission. We feel two or three small shakes each year from this fault and a quake of Richter Magnitude 6+ would not be a surprise to seismologists. The fault represents the boundary between the eastern bedrock complex (granitics) and the western bedrock complex (Franciscan metamorphics) and is considered by some geologists to represent the pre-Neogene subduction zone that extended along our prehistoric coast.

City planners have chosen to ignore the active fault zone and the potential for liquefaction by permitting high density housing over the fault zone. To add to their decision, they have encouraged development in the old Santa Ana River channel which is five feet below sea level in the Bolsa Chica area and saturated with water year-round.

A plus for the fault has been its role in producing oil traps for the extensive petroleum resources of Huntington Beach. The Pliocene-age oil deposits are as shallow as 4000 feet and have been producing for over sixty years. Some of the wells in the Edwards field have the original wooden "walking beam" pumps. No new drilling is being done today in the city, although secondary recovery is widely being used. Steam injection facilities behind the high school and next to the parking lot have been in operation for several years. Whip-stick drilling along Pacific Coast Highway has tapped vast oil deposits miles offshore. Additionally four large oil platforms are west of the pier and plans for more platforms have been made. The Sea Beach Platform, Esther Island, was completely scoured away by the ocean storms of 1983. It is being rebuilt.

Huntington Beach was established because of its petroleum resources, rich farming land and peat deposits, and its attractive beaches. It has been shaped by its geologic hazards, notably the Newport-Inglewood fault, river flooding, and coastal erosion. Its future will be interesting to observe as its resources are reduced and development expands.

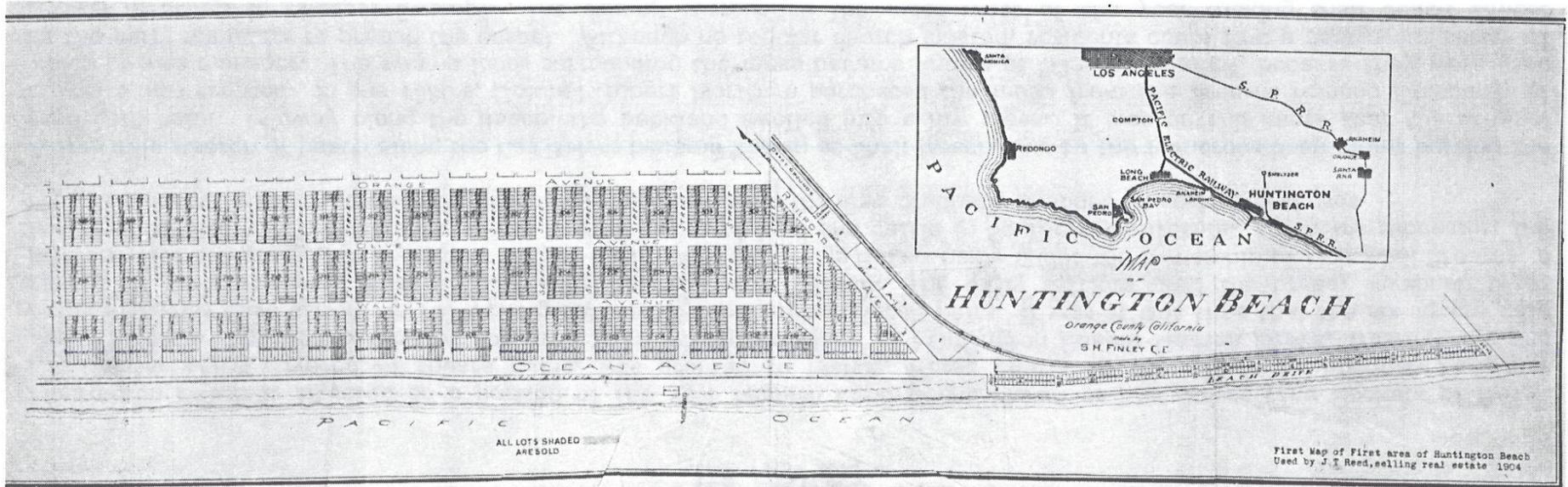
Submitted by: Carol Stadum



PICTORIAL  
HISTORY OF  
HUNTINGTON BEACH



Huntington Beach Assembly Tabernacle and Camp Ground. "Tent City" shown in this 1906 photo



Shown is the original townsite map used to sell parcels in 1904

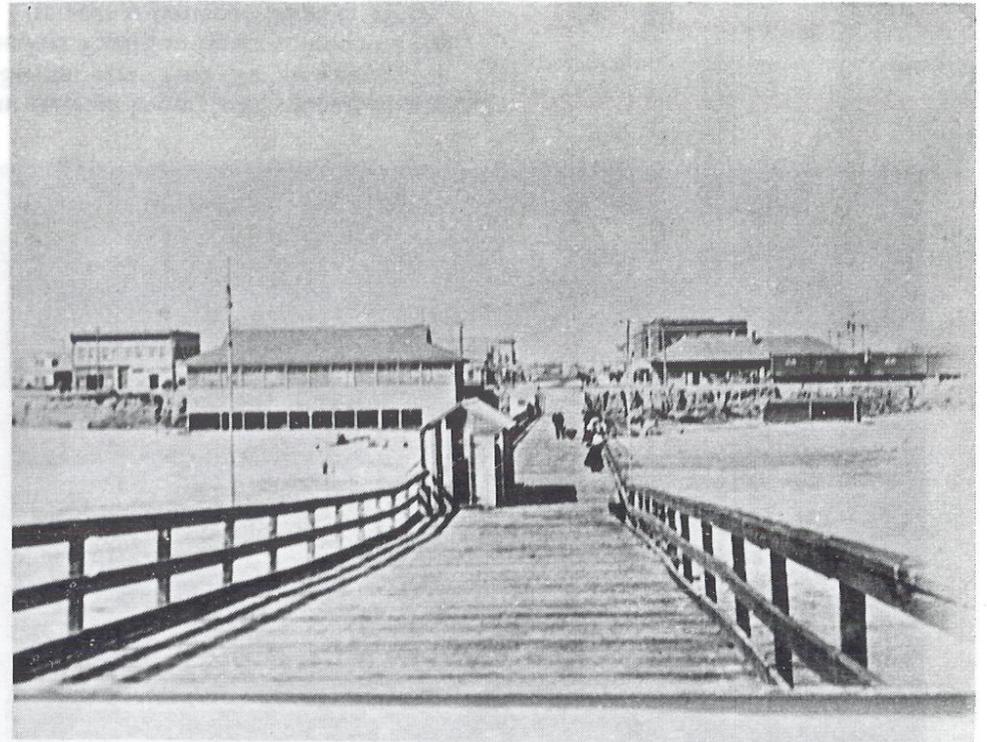
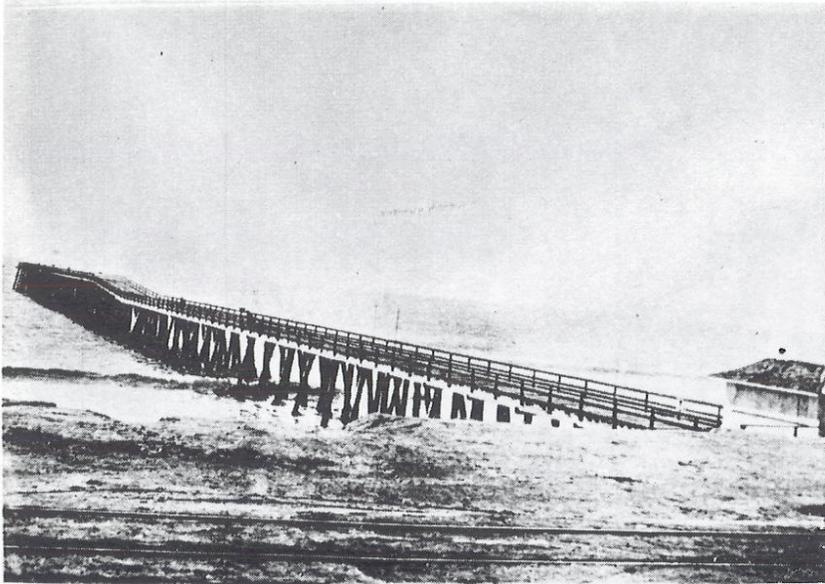


A scene at the train station in the early 1900's is captured in the photo above.

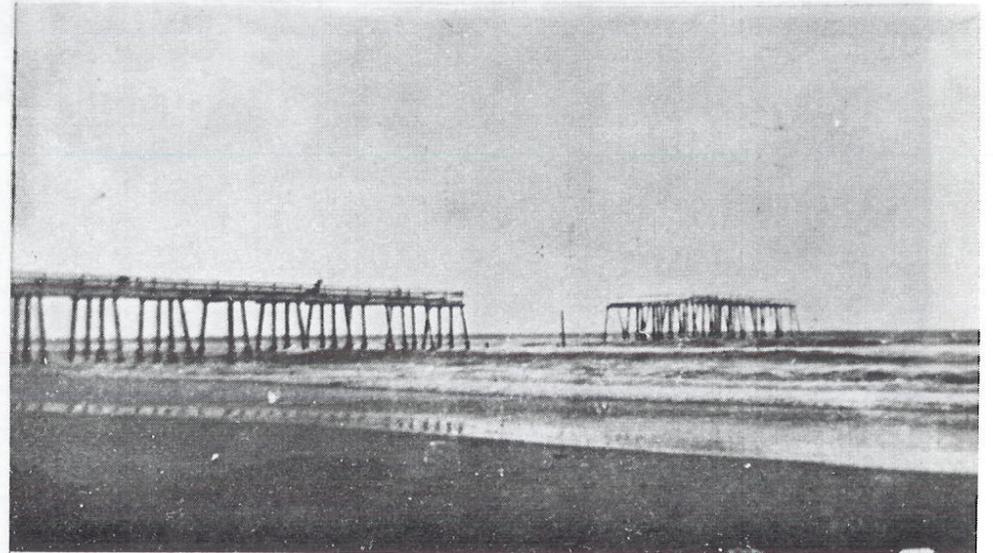
On a high bluff overlooking the lowlands of Huntington Beach stands the gracious home built by William and Mary Newland in 1898. The white frame house located on Beach Boulevard at Adams Avenue is the city's best preserved and most historically significant example of the late Victorian period. Here the Newlands resided for fifty four years, established a large, highly productive ranch and helped to pioneer the city of Huntington Beach through their valuable contributions in the fields of education, business, community and social service.



The City's first pier was constructed of wood in 1903 by the Huntington Beach Company. The pier extended from Main Street.



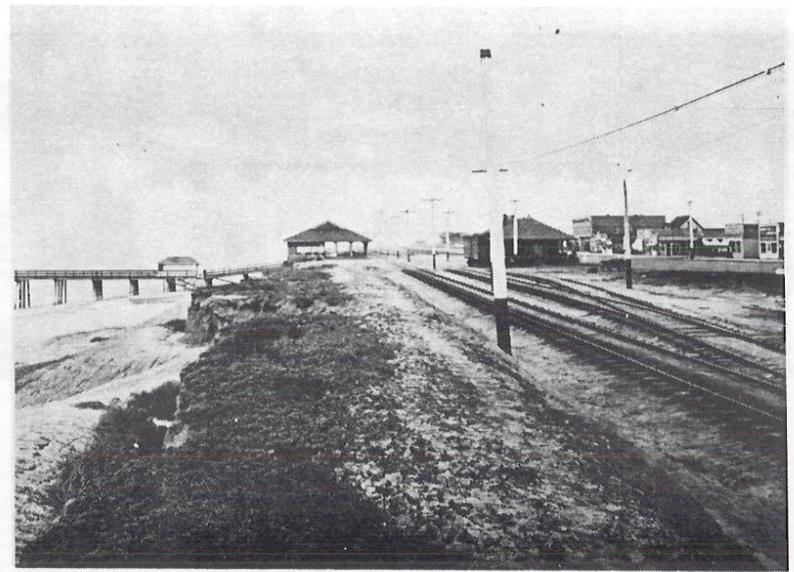
The Huntington Beach Inn located at Ocean Avenue and 8th Street housed for many years the men who came to work in the Huntington Beach oil fields. Later, the Huntington Beach Elks Club used the facility as a meeting place. The Inn's destruction in 1969, brought an end to the era for which it was constructed.



In 1910 a heavy storm demolished the middle of the pier, leaving the end protruding from the ocean floor several hundred feet from shore.



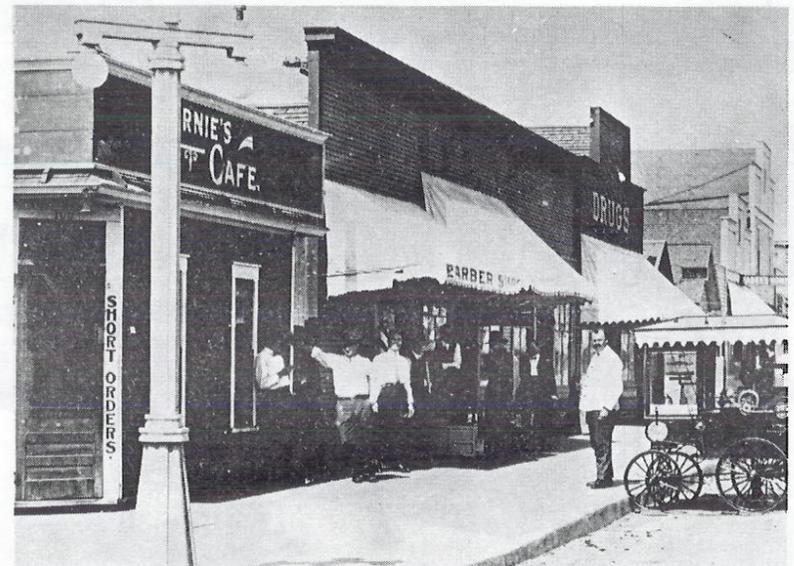
The corner of Main Street and Ocean Avenue during a 4th of July celebration is captured in this photo taken about 1910. The view shows what a person, arriving in Huntington Beach via the Red Car, would see upon entering the business district. The large brick building at the right of the photo, was Vincent's Place, "The" Place Downtown in 1910. The 4th of July parade and celebration began in 1904 and is still a popular tradition which attracts many visitors and residents each year.



The view is looking west on Ocean Avenue (now Pacific Coast Highway) toward the intersection of Main Street. The wooden pier is in place, but Vincent's building is not indicating that this photo was taken between 1904 and 1909.



By 1906, the downtown area was beginning to develop. This scene shows Main Street looking toward the pier.



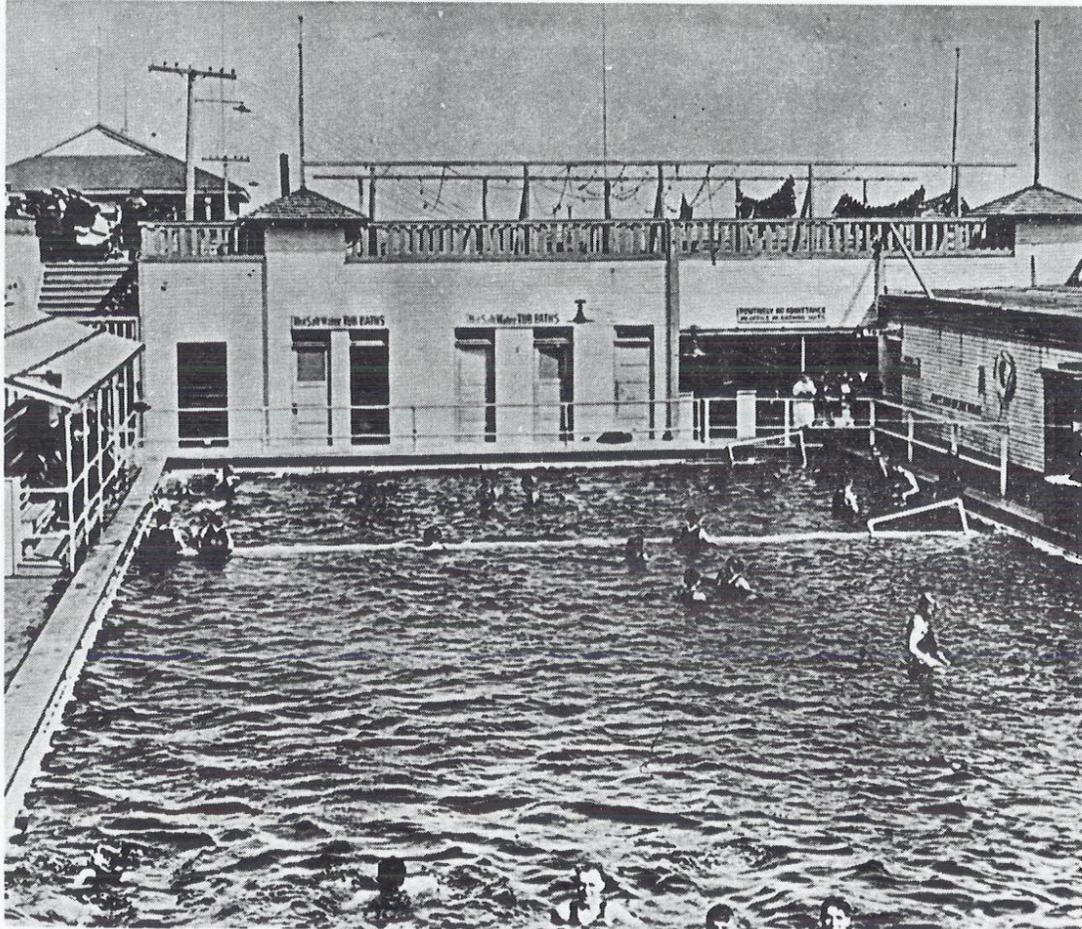
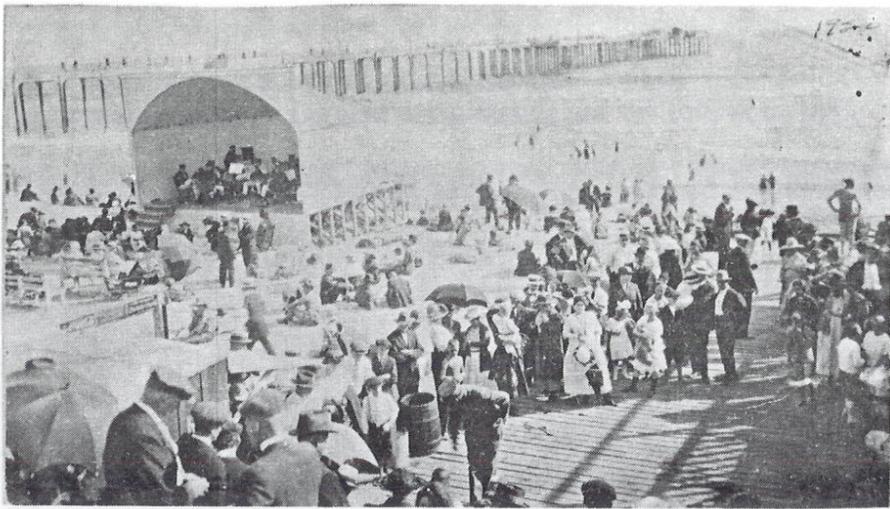
Main Street 1900: This scene was typical of Huntington Beach's Main Street early in this century. The barber shop was a local landmark for many years.



This was the site of the first city hall, located in the far right of this building at Main and Walnut



W. L. McKenney may have sold groceries out of this old building on Main and Walnut, but the building was probably best known from the time it was the "unofficial city hall" of Huntington Beach. Noble Waite's drug store was the gathering place for those who wished to talk about municipal affairs and many a man decided to run for city council because of discussions held here.



In the early twenties the beach was a popular place, as is seen in the photos at the top of the page. At the top left, the city band is seen performing, and in the background, the full stretch of the pier is seen. The top right picture shows the beach as seen looking down from the balcony around the plunge structure.

At the left is the Saltwater "Plunge" which was located on the northwest side of the pier. The pool was constructed in 1911 and was later covered with a permanent roof. The structure stood until about 1960.

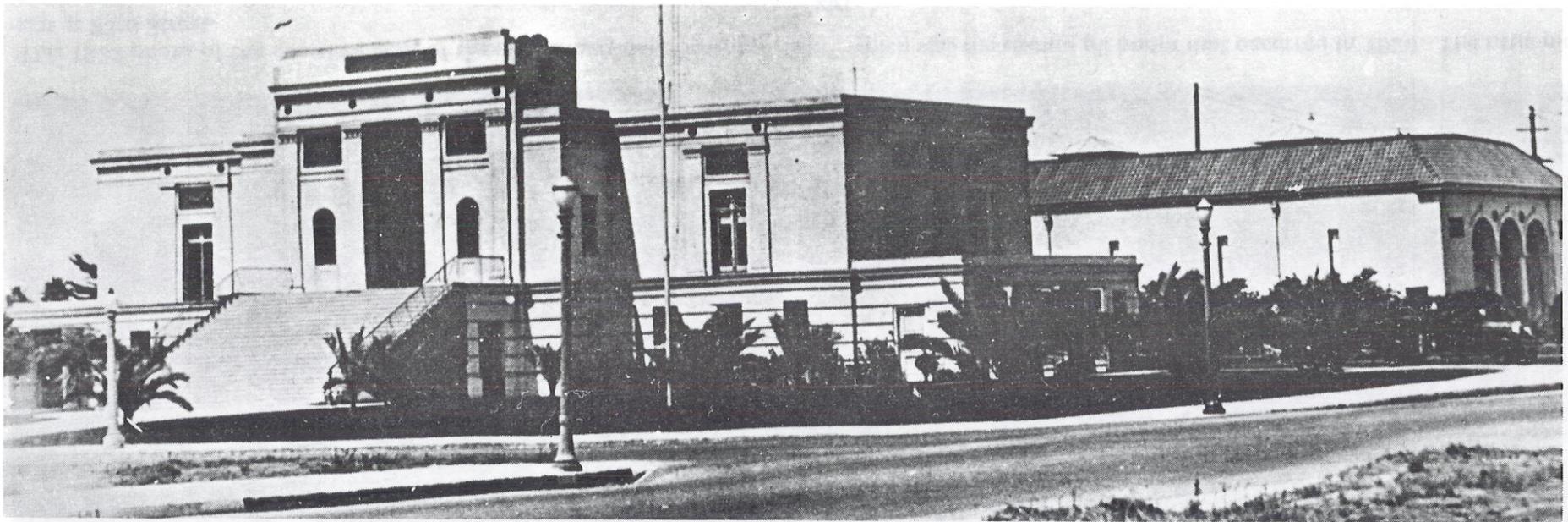
In 1919, Standard Oil leased 500 acres in the northwest corner of the City from the Huntington Beach Company. Their first well, known as A-1, was brought in during August of 1920 with a production rate of 91 barrels a day. More drilling continued on the lease and soon, other companies moved in. Wells sprang up over night and in less than a month, the town grew from 1,500 to 5,000 people. Then, on November 6, 1920, Standard Oil brought in the history making well known as Bolsa Chica No. 1. An estimated 4 million cubic feet of gas and 1,742 barrels of oil were produced per day by this well alone. This proved the Huntington Beach oil field to be a great discovery and soon the population was over 7,000. What followed was an oil frenzy with areas as small as city lots being used for organizing oil corporations. Scores of companies were formed, their stock put on the market and, amid a national advertising campaign, people were bused in and told how they could become oil millionaires by purchasing stock. People became fanatical about oil stock. After a year or so, the field was fully explored and the excitement died down. Some small companies made fantastic profits. Owners of encyclopedia lots also profited as a result of oil pumped from their land. What appeared at first to be a valueless gift of land, resulted in fortunes of various amounts to its recipients who could be located. Their bonanza continued for several years. In 1926, the area known as the town lot field produced a second oil boom. Houses and structures were moved out and practically every lot was turned into an oil lease.

The next major advancement in oil production came in 1930 when oil was discovered and produced from the tideland ocean pool utilizing the whipstock method. The Whipstock method was developed by a company located right in Huntington Beach. As of 1973, approximately 500 whipstock wells were still producing about 10 million barrels annually.

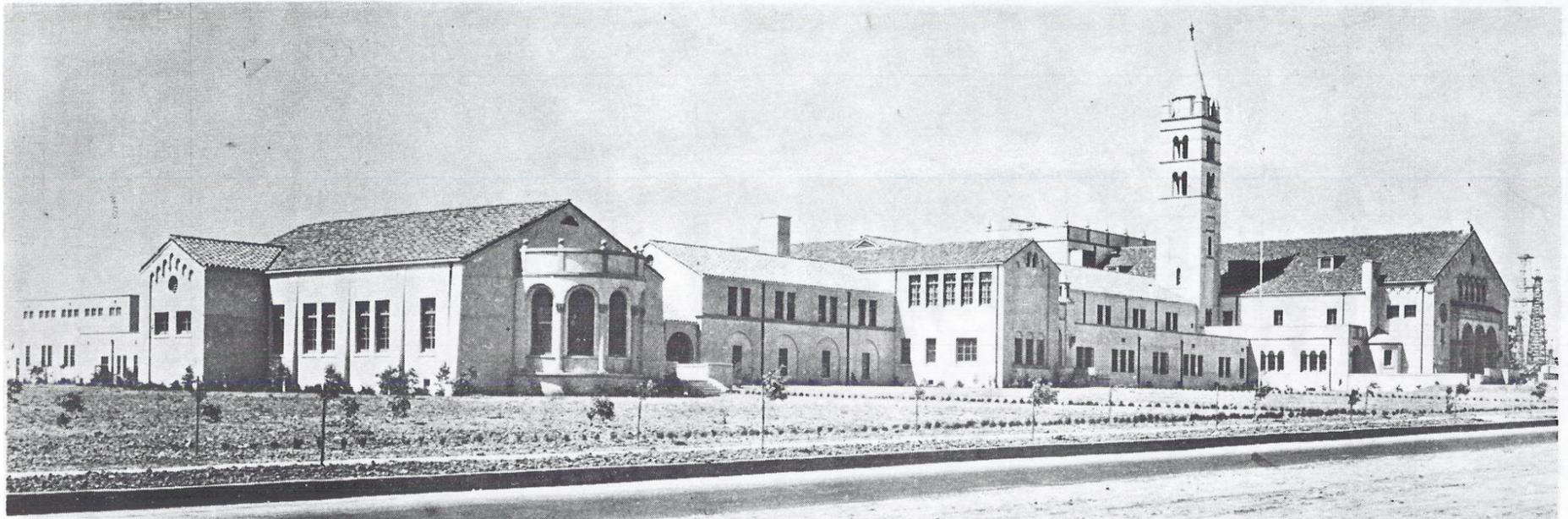
Through the years, the City was principally an oil town, but recreational and cultural opportunities were developing. A public library had existed since the City's incorporation and the Fourth of July celebrations with a parade, picnics and gatherings became widely attended. In 1925, Pacific Coast Highway was constructed, making the beach much more accessible.

For many years the Huntington Beach Company was willing to give the beach frontage to the City, but many citizens had a concern regarding responsibilities for overall operation and control. Later, in 1931, Tom Talbert, twice Mayor and long time City Councilman and now a realtor, started negotiations with the Huntington Beach Company for the purchase of the beach frontage from the pier southeast to Highway 39 (Beach Boulevard). The negotiations were unsuccessful and ultimately the City went to court and demanded that the beach frontage from Highway 39 to 23rd street be deeded to the City at no cost. Finally, a settlement was reached in a San Diego court. The settlement resulted in the City being granted a perpetual easement over the beach southeast of the pier to Beach Boulevard for "public, recreational, park and playground purposes and other uses appurtenant or incident thereto." Later, in 1968, the City purchased fee title to 82 feet of this area covering all the frontage along Pacific Coast Highway from the pier to Beach Boulevard plus all of the beach property from approximately Huntington Street to Beach. Through the years, the city beach has come to be known as one of the finest in the world in terms of its operation and the beach area in general has gained a world wide reputation for excellent surfing.

Within a few years, the surrounding beaches began to develop. The State Park Commission purchased 11,000 feet of ocean frontage east of Huntington Beach and in 1950 opened the Huntington Beach State Park. To the west of the City was a three mile stretch of privately owned beach where for years campers, fisherman and squatters used the shore without control of any kind. The litter of bottles, cans and trash accumulated to such an extent that the place became known as "Tin Can Beach". In 1961, the State of California purchased it and began developing Bolsa Chica State park.

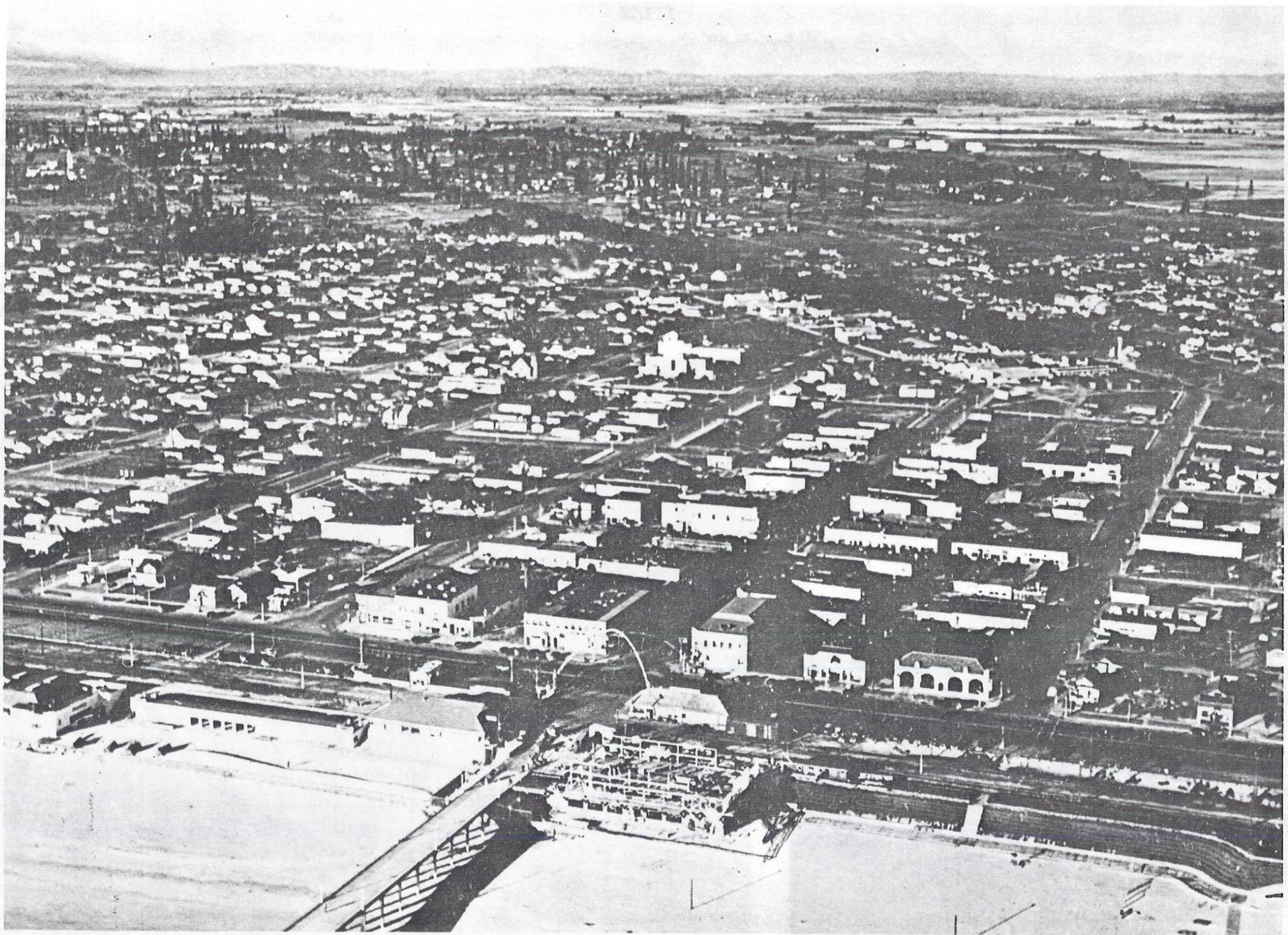


**The new City Hall and Municipal Auditorium were completed in 1923 - located at 5th and Orange  
The facilities were financed by Municipal Bonds**



**This photo shows the new Huntington Beach High School just after completion in 1926. Note the oil derricks at the far right of the picture. They were located in the fields north of the school which was in the area of the original strikes.**

**Architects...Allison & Allison**



This 1939 aerial photo of downtown shows the Pavalon under construction. The city's Pavalon served as a hall for concerts and festivities for many years. In later years, the building was converted to a restaurant and became the famous "Fisherman" and in more recent years "Maxwell's." The famous "Arches" at Main and P.C.H. are seen at the foot of the pier as well as the civic center complex located in the middle of the picture. In the background are the oil fields and in the distance, the snow covered San Gabriel mountains.



A panorama of the pier and "Fun Zone" is seen in this 1947 wide-angle photo





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Chamber of Commerce  
HUNTINGTON BEACH  
CALIFORNIA

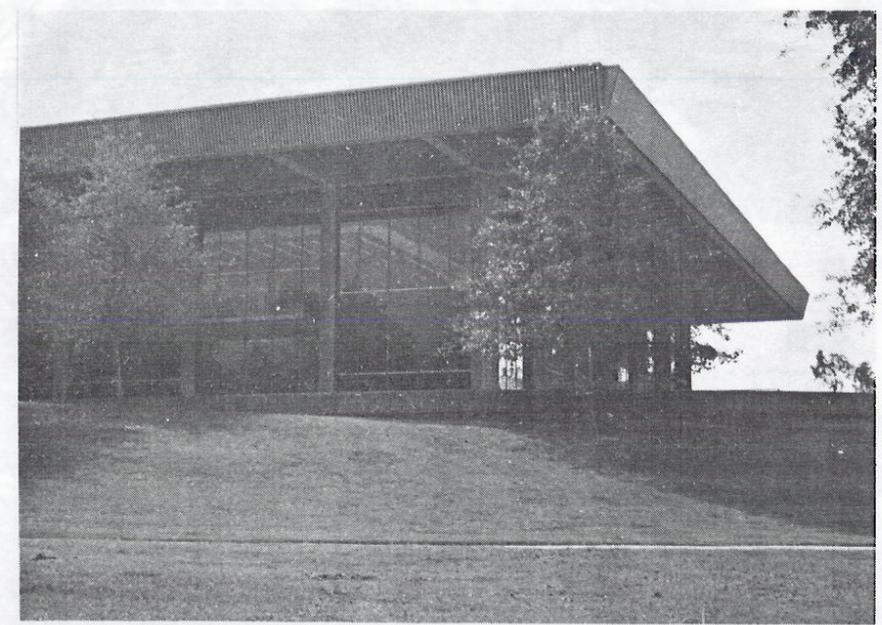
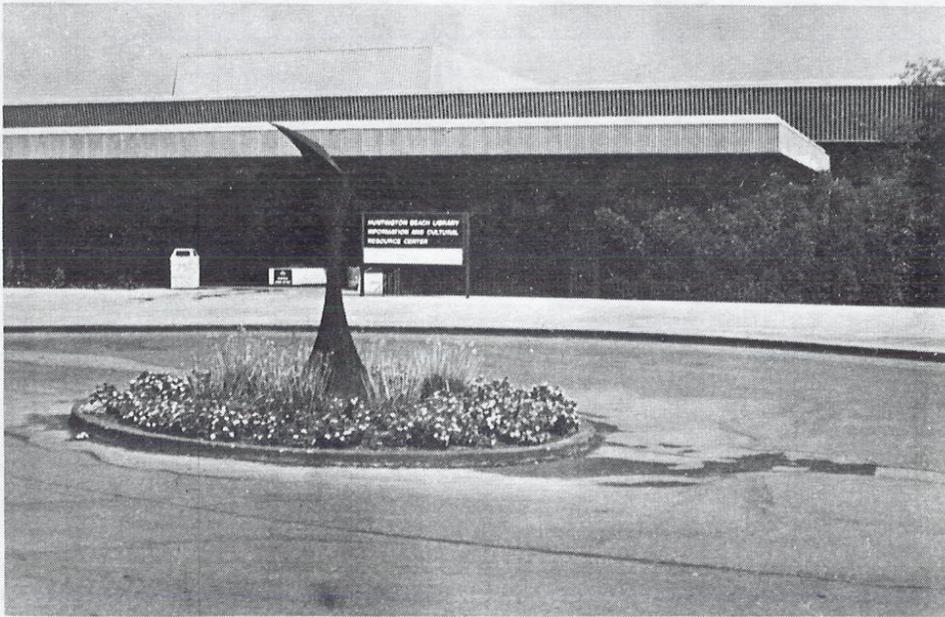
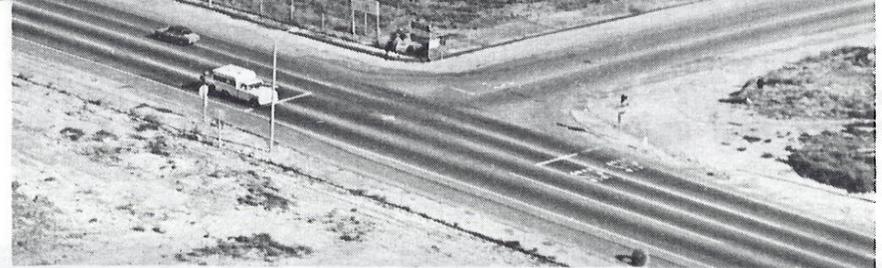
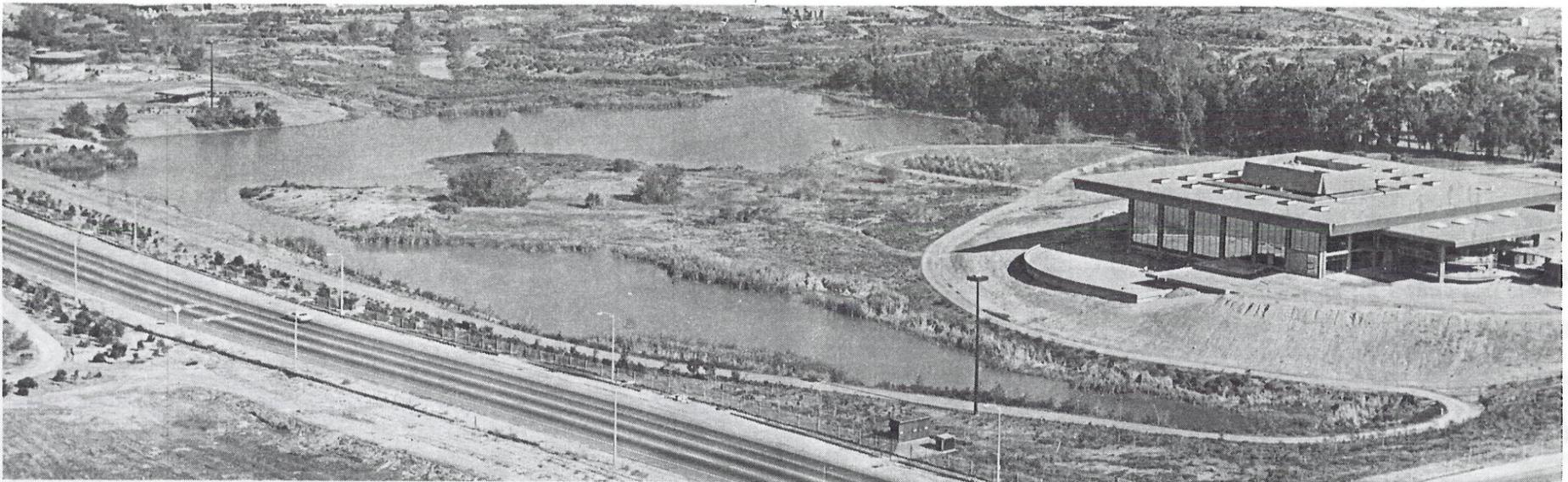
Highway 39 (Beach Boulevard) cuts through the middle of this 1957 aerial photo taken by the Chamber of Commerce. The pier cuts out from the coastline in the middle of the picture, and to the left, the construction of the Edison power plant is evident from the facilities protruding from the beach. This photo shows the city as it looked prior to the housing construction boom which started in the early 1960's and continued in the 1970's.



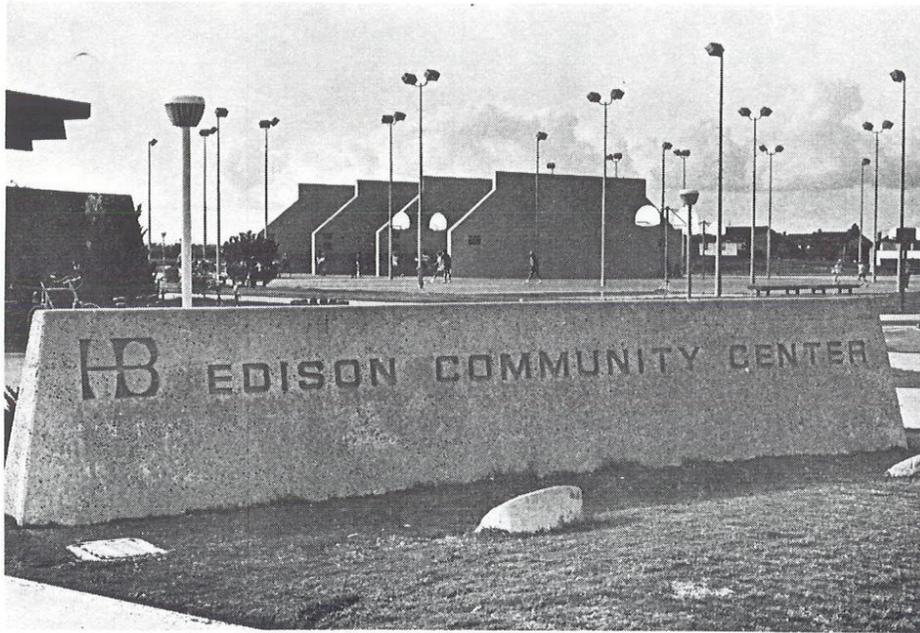
A modern day picture of the crowd at Huntington Beach



A picture of the Huntington Beach pier as it looked prior to the storm of March 1983 when it was again damaged in a severe storm. The landmark "End of the Pier" cafe was lost as well as the platform on which it stood. The pier has since been restored and the new "End of the Pier" cafe will open in late summer 1985.



On a hill in Central Park overlooking Talbert Lake stands the City's \$3 million Central Library, Information and Cultural Resource Center. Every attempt was made by world famous architect Dion Neutra to design the Library so that the structure and park would blend into a happy place for relaxation, contemplation and study. The building features a four-tier stack area capable of holding 350,000 books, magazines, cassettes and other materials. The latest in audio-visual and computer equipment is available for patron use.



The City's park system currently encompasses over 450 acres. The system consists of 54 neighborhood parks, two community centers and a central park. The neighborhood parks offer residents a relaxing atmosphere within walking distance from their homes. The community centers are regionally located in the city and offer supervised recreation and instructional classes for all age groups. Central Park, quite literally located in the center of the city, currently has 200 acres developed including two fishing lakes and equestrian trails. The master plan for Central Park calls for ultimate development of over 300 acres, a sports complex, three lakes and complete equestrian facilities. The City's park system is recognized as one of the finest in the nation. In addition, the city operates a Senior's Center where a complete program is provided for the recreation and special needs of the city's senior population.

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Farmers fed the grain to their cattle, and one by one, many farmers began growing celery, an excellent money crop. Of interest was the Colonel's use of a flag system to signal prospective feed buyers. When the flag was raised he was ready to transact business; when lowered, it signaled "no business at this time".

Early in 1901, Philip A. Stanton and Colonel H. S. Finley are reported to have looked down the mesa escarpment to the lovely beach and rolling surf, visualizing it as a perfect location for a west coast rival to Atlantic City. With the development of a resort city in mind they formed a syndicate, The West Coast Land and Water Company. Through it they acquired fifteen hundred (1,500) acres of land for one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from Colonel Northam. On high ground adjacent to the beach, twenty (20) acres of either side of Main Street were divided into lots and streets. They named this forty (40)-acre development, Pacific City. To lend it an air of life and permanency, they moved several houses and a church on to the town site—the houses from Newport, via the beach at low tide, and the church from Fairview.

Stanton sold his interest in the company in 1902 to three businessmen who collaborated to buy out the West Coast Land and Water Company and stimulate interest and growth in Pacific City. Their plan included securing mass transportation to the town. Pacific City was still essentially isolated from the valley, except for a wagon trail that snaked over the mesa, and from other beach towns at high tide. Therefore, they sold out one man, Henry E. Huntington, setting the stage for the next step in the founding of Huntington Beach.

#### Pacific City Becomes Huntington Beach

The men who purchased Stanton's interest formed a new syndicate that permitted unit holders of the original Stanton syndicate to retain their interest and take stock in the new company. Several did, including Colonel H. S. Finley.

Although the site of Pacific City held great promise, it lacked easy access for prospective citizens and land speculators. The syndicate, headed by J. V. Vickers, approached Henry E. Huntington, owner of the massive interurban electric railway in southern California, and asked him to extend the Long Beach line to Pacific City. In return, Huntington was offered a large block of stock in the new company, free right-of-way along the ocean front, one-twelfth of all subdivided land lots and one-fifth interest in all ocean front bluff property. The company would be named The Huntington Beach Company and, the coup de grace, Pacific City would be renamed Huntington Beach. Huntington agreed to extend the Long Beach rail line.

On Monday, July 4, 1904, a crowd estimated at fifty thousand (50,000) witnessed the dedication of the city of Huntington Beach and the arrival of the first Pacific Electric red cars. Following the dedication eleven beeves provided dinners for all while eager customers besieged fifty-two real estate agents for lots.

The Company invested heavily in city improvements. A generator was built to provide electricity. Telephone service operated from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sidewalks, curbs and gutters were built. A Pavilion, an indoor plunge and a hotel were constructed. Parks and a nursery, providing free plants to residents, were among the major projects undertaken.

Within a year the surge of growth declined. The Huntington Beach Company was in debt and the community lay in economic doldrums. At this juncture an event occurred that brought much-needed cash to the Company. Encyclopedia Americana adopted a promotion plan offering the purchaser of a Student's Reference set a free lot as a bonus. A total of 420 "hillside and...canyon: lots were purchased for this purpose from the Huntington Beach Company. Little did each "bonus" recipient know that in less than two decades his lot might be worth a fortune.

#### Discovery Of Oil Defers Dream Of Resort Town

Evidences of gas and petroleum in the Huntington Beach area date back to prehistoric days. Indians used pitch from the bogs to water proof their baskets and reed boats. The Spaniards added to this the use of oil for fuel and medicinal purposes.

As the area came under cultivation, wells were dug for water. Colonel Northam drilled a well on the eastern slope of his property in order to irrigate an alfalfa field that extended east to Adams and Beach Boulevard. More gas than water came in so the water could not be pumped. The flow of gas was directed into his house where it was used for light and heat for many years.

In 1919 representatives of the Huntington Beach Company met with Standard Oil and leased five hundred (500) acres to Standard for exploratory drilling.

1938

A series of heavy rainstorms in the coastal area, extending from San Diego on the south to San Luis Obispo on the north and inland to parts of the Mojave desert, produced extreme floods, the greatest within the last 70 years. (OC Flood Control District)

An eight feet high wall of water swept out of the Santa Ana Canyon. (City of Huntington Beach Flood Study 1974)

At the peak of the flood, just after midnight on March 3, the roaring waters of the Santa Ana River issued from Santa Ana Canyon at an estimated rate of 100,000 cubic feet per second. (Friis 145)

The Great Flood of 1938 was the most destructive in Orange County's history. The swirling waters claimed 19 lives, left 2,000 homeless and deposited a thick layer of alkaline silt and debris on thousands of acres of farmland. (OC Register 1/13/95)

Hours after waters subsided in other districts, flood perils struck the area between Santa Ana and Huntington Beach. An area fifteen miles long and seven miles wide was inundated as the Santa Ana River overflowed its banks near the ocean. Only the roofs showed on many of the houses surrounding Talbert, where a relief station was established. (LA Times 3/4/38)

1939

Following a heat wave--record temperature of 119 degrees September 21--a tropical rainstorm with heavy winds walloped the coast, drowning dozens of people, sinking boats and flooding homes. (OC Register 1/13/95)

In Huntington Beach a 300 foot section of the pier was torn out. (Friis 147)

1969

On February 24, almost 6 inches of rain fell, overflowing dams and flooding parks and nearby canyons. In Huntington Beach the storm drains and flood control channels were unable to handle the extreme water flow and nearly all the lowlands were covered by water. (OC Register 1/13/95)

The twin floods for 1969 resulted in \$21 million damages and five deaths. Peak velocities above Prado Dam reached 77,000 cubic feet per second and 6,000 cubic feet per second below the dam. Only emergency sandbagging efforts kept the river in its channel as it approached the City and the ocean. (City of Huntington Beach Flood Study 1974)

1983

A series of storms lashed the county's coast, causing heavy damage to the Huntington Beach pier and flooding many homes (OC Register 1/13/95). As a result, 780 homes in Huntington Beach were damaged, 200 of which suffered major damage. (CERT Newsletter, February 1995)

1988

In January, a powerful storm whipped up twenty foot waves and dropped 250 feet of the Huntington Beach pier into the ocean. (OC Register 1/13/95)

1995

On January 4, Huntington Beach received 4.5 inches of water causing flooding in different areas of the city. Streets were flooded, cars were stalled and people were stranded by the water surrounding their homes. Marine Safety was called to evacuate eight neighborhoods where people could not safely leave their homes due to waist-high water. (CERT Newsletter, February 1995)

The City was declared a disaster site on January 5. A \$2.1 million claim was submitted by the Office of Emergency Services to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recover the expenses incurred from the flood disaster.

The "encyclopedia Lots" were tracked down, a dramatic chapter in history where large sums of money were made and lost with a small piece of innocent paper. After years of searching and legal battle, the oil was removed from Summit Hill. According to oil sources, the yields from Gospel Swamps (at this time in history known as Pacific Beach) were one of the largest oil discoveries in Southern California, second only to Signal Hill in Long Beach. New wealth and honest notoriety came to Pacific Beach, at last.

All around Orange County notoriety was a byword in 1920.

Anaheim and Santa Ana were chalking up national repute in all agricultural fields.

Newport Beach was doing rousing business as a small county port. speculating in all types of building materials.

Los Alamitos was resting on its reputation of being the birthplace of the California Orange.

To the north, Anaheim Bay and adjoining Bay City were enjoying a mixed reputation as being the "Atlantic City of the West Coast." A resort complete with the family Fun Zone, and all sorts of shady, backstreet gambling halls, Bay City was a colorful, exciting City, if not actually being the Atlantic City of the West Coast.

The massive roller coaster, imported from the San Francisco Pan American Exposition in 1915, provided the hub of the vast arcade of escapist entertainment on the beach boardwalk south of the present day pier, while Main Street offered the world-famed wild-and-wicked Jewel Cafe destined to oblivion following the Depression and the Long Beach earth quake in 1933. Most of the structure in Bay City were considered unsafe following the devastation and after their demolition the spotlight faded on the once-fun capital of Orange County.

Older citizens can recount the memories of nights dancing to Glenn Miller, Stan Kenton, and Glen Gray at Gospel Swamps-Pacific Beach-Huntington Beach's own night club, the Pavalon.

Through several stages the building has remained pier-side since its erection in 1939, surviving a ballroom, country and western music haven, rock and roll concert hall, picnic area, and roller rink. When the building was gutted by fire in 1966, the building was converted into one of the city's finest restaurants, now quietly overlooking the beach as a reminder of the city's endurance.

To historically digress, let us return to those days of "Our Town" and "encyclopedia lots" and examine the influence of one railroad magnate, Henry Huntington (nephew of Collins Huntington, partner in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad).

When land speculation reached its peak in southern areas of the county, wealthy businessmen in Los Angeles devised a system of making a profit out of a profit. Not only would profits be realized from the sale of land in Orange County, but money could be made just getting the people there.

In 1902, the Pacific Electric Company built and advertised its new Triangular Trolley Trip as: "a trip without rival though the heart of Orange County-the great sugar beet and celery fields; Santa Ana, the hub of the Orange County Agricultural Empire; Huntington Beach; and Alamitos Bay-a trip ideally combining commercial and resort attractions." Someone had finally handed Gospel Swamp the dice and they were in the game. In grateful response, Gospel Swamp or Pacific City as it was then officially called, the unincorporated township adopted the name of Huntington Beach, on July 4, 1904. A tribute to Henry Huntington and his trolley.

The years following the trolley and oil occurrences were relatively pastoral and slow-moving. Voluntarily, Huntington Beach became a quiet beach town.

Then the war came; then the industry. And that is where the neo-natives came in. And that is when the real natives started grumbling. Everyone has a basic history of their land to relate, and anyone can throw in a little of their own local color and no one will know the difference.

## Page 2 - A Brief History of Huntington Beach

A third strike in 1933 had world wide impact because of the new techniques it demonstrated. Up until that time, drilling had been on the near-vertical, directly over an oil pool. With the invention of controlled directional drilling, first used successfully here to tap the tide land pools, a well could be drilled on a slant, in any desired direction. Within a year, 90 wells were producing from tall rigs along the coastline. These bobbing pumps remained the symbol of coastal Huntington Beach for many years and were frequently used as background for movies, including "Giant." Now, most are gone or masked by plantings.

A final oil strike came in 1953. This was near the old commercial area, and resulted in removal of another, more modest residential area.

Drawn by good land and water resources, a few industries, including the Holly Sugar Refinery, Huntington Beach Broom Factory and La Bolsa Tile Factory, had developed to provide jobs for the resort's residents before the discovery of oil. But, as the oil field activity spread in the industrial area, north of the city limits, most original industries moved away or converted their operation to oil. This meant that the city was economically dependent of the petroleum industry and the beach recreation business.

Completion of Pacific Coast Highway in 1926 made the city more accessible by auto, increasing its popularity as a way stop for Mexico bound tourists. By the mid 1930's, the City of Huntington Beach had acquired this beach stretching from the pier to Beach Blvd. Later state beaches were developed on both sides of it, creating some 8.5 miles of nearly unbroken beach.

Surfing was introduced here in the late 1920's and local boys became skilled with their heavy redwood boards, but Huntington Beach wasn't a widely recognized surfing spot until the 1950's. The first surf shop, "Gordie's Surf Boards", opened in 1955. Within a few years, these shops dominated the downtown commercial area, as they have continued to do until the present time. At the insistence of Pete Beltrom and Norman Worthy, then director of Recreation and Parks, the first United States Surfing Championships were held here in 1959. Fame as a "surfer's paradise" followed for the city and its historic pier, largely as a result of TV coverage of the annual event, beginning in 1960. The championships continued under City sponsorship for fourteen years, and surfing contests are still held at the Pier each year.

The immediate residential post World War II boom had comparatively little effect on Huntington Beach because so much of the surrounding land was in active oil production or agriculture use. But in less than a decade, land values had increased dramatically in Orange County in response to the housing demand, and outlying farms were sold for development. In 1957 Huntington Beach annexed a great deal of land between the original city and the proposed San Diego Freeway on its north and east. The city's population mushroomed near the freeway, separated from the traditional one by the oil fields. Industrial and commercial areas developed for the convenience of the new neighborhoods while the older areas remained the same.

In recent years the oil fields have been cleared of unsightly old rigs and operations consolidated so that the land can be used for other purposes. Many substantial single and multi-family structures have been built on the 1926 "town lot" site and more new development is planned for the area.

Currently, the focus is on rejuvenating the original commercial district through the efforts of a Redevelopment Agency program. This survey study has concentrated on that portion of the original city included within the present redevelopment boundaries in order to emphasize the historical significance which remains within the area. It hopes to encourage incorporation of outstanding reminders of the city's past within the redesigned downtown. This inclusion will help residents understand the history of their community and generate a heightened sense of pride in their home town.

Huntington Beach became a chartered City in February 1937, by special action of the state legislature. Today it has seven member City Council. The Council selects its Mayor, City Administrator, Planning, Recreation and Parks, Personnel, Library Commissions, Environmental Council, Design Review Board and Art and Cultural Council.

Since 1965, these advisory commissions along with several citizens committees have accomplished many community projects, that have been very beneficial to the community.

In 1968, the Urban Land Institute Citizens Committee made several recommendations to the City Council towards the improvement of the City. The beach area development plan was approved and completed in 1969, making the beach one of the finest in California. The new Civic Center site chosen and now under construction will be completed in 1973, and plans for the downtown redevelopment are on the drawing boards.

With the need for more parks and open space, the "People for Parks" committee was formed in 1969, and with their leadership a \$6,000,000 park bond was approved by the citizens by more than 70% in favor. A 400 acre Central City Park, two community, and several neighborhood parks have or will be completed in 1973.

In October 1972, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new \$3,000,000 Library, designed by world famous architects Richard and Dion Neutra. The library will be built on a hill in Central City Park overlooking Lake Talbert.

A Recreational Trail Plan for the City was approved in 1972, and is under construction now and with a new federal grant approved, will be completed in the near future.

With all the land development and construction in the last few years, there has been an interest in some of the past. A historical society was formed by several interested citizens, and the preservation and collection of artifacts and data is being assembled for the future. It is their hope that it will be displayed in a museum of sorts.

Past history tells of the existence of Garbieleno and Wainaleno Indians in this area. There were several contacts made by the Spaniards and some history of the Gabrielenos was recorded by a priest in 1826.

An archeological firm was hired by the City in 1972, to survey and study the possible sites. It was discovered that there were 21 known archeological sites in Huntington Beach. Significant finds along the bluffs show that the Indians existed here during two different periods; 400 to 800 years ago, and 2,000 to 6,000 years ago. An Indian maiden, fully intact was found in what archeologists believe to be one of their burial grounds or villages. Many of the finds will help identify the period and tell something of the past history, as none of the descendants exist today.

After a look at yesterday, what will come tomorrow?

In 1926, the area between 8th Street and 23rd Street, known as the town lot field, produced a second oil boom. The profits from oil were now available to the owners of these lots. Houses and other structures were moved and practically every lot was turned into an oil lease. The waste from the oil wells destroyed all the trees that were planted for beautification.

Finally, in 1930, oil was discovered and produced from the tideland ocean pool utilizing the whipstock method. The development of this idea proved that oil from the known ocean pool lying off shore could be drilled from the upland by slant drilling, and in the process, preserve the beach and public playground. Today, close to 500 whipstock wells produce approximately 10 million barrels of oil annually and millions of dollars per year in royalties for the State of California.

While oil was the principle factor in Huntington Beach economy, recreational and cultural opportunities were not ignored. A public library was started as early as 1909. A Fourth of July celebration with parade, picnics, gatherings and concerts on the beach were well attended by the citizens. In the 1920's the Bolsa Chica Gun Club was formed by a group of wealthy sportsmen from Los Angeles. Located on a bluff in the swamp land, west of town, it looked down over the most populated bird and wildlife creation in the area.

Pacific coast Highway was constructed in 1925, making the beach access a lot easier.

The Huntington Beach Co. built the area's first pier of wood in about 1904. During the interim of 1912 a heavy storm demolished the middle of the pier, leaving the end protruding from the ocean several hundred feet from shore. Subsequently the City Council, with Thomas Talbert heading the promotion, floated a bond issue to build a concrete pier and the new structure was dedicated in April 1931. In an extremely heavy storm in September 1939, a 300 foot section of the pier was washed away. By August 1940, repairs were completed bringing the pier's length to its present 1821.8 feet. Yearly, an average of 200,000 fishermen frequent this pier, famous for its location in waters which abound in many species of fish.

For many years the Huntington Beach Co. was willing to give the beach frontage to the City. Tom Talbert, twice mayor and longtime City Councilman, urged the City to accept, but many citizens felt that City ownership would create new expenses and responsibilities and the council repeatedly refused to accept the beach frontage. In 1921, a bond issue of \$75,000 for purchase of the beach from the pier to 9th Street was carried by a more than 2/3 majority, but the City Council declared the election void on a technicality.

In 1931, as a Realtor, Mr. Talbert started negotiations with the Huntington Beach Co. for the purchase of the beach frontage from the pier east as far as the trailer park. However the arrangement proved to be unacceptable since the Huntington Beach Co. would retain too many privileges.

The City went to court and demanded that the beach frontage from the trailer park to 23rd Street be deeded to the City at not cost. The case was heard in San Diego County. A compromise was reached and the City received all frontage east of the pier and withdrew its claim to all frontage west of the pier, and the case was closed. The long clean beach was a dominant asset to the City and would become a successful attraction in the years to come. An open air bowl seating 4,000 people was installed near the beach and became well known for the concerts and shows that appeared.

The State Park Commission purchased 11,000 feet of ocean frontage east of Huntington Beach from the trailer park to the Santa Ana River in 1948. The area was fenced, parking facilities and all the necessities provided for the public, and after two year's work the Huntington Beach State Park was opened.

# 1973 HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

BY PATTI BAUER

If you know Huntington Beach as a City of 143,500 people, forty thousand homes, five freeway off-ramps, four high schools, thirty-one elementary schools, mile upon mile of asphalt roadway, row upon row of block walls, there's more.

Join me in a journey from Yesterday to Tomorrow.

Where once existed acres of marsh and willow thicket, with various species of wild birds, bubbling artesian wells and dozens of flowing streams dotting the countryside, now stands our City.

Almost 139 years ago, on May 22, 1834, lands were partitioned from the massive Spanish Grant given to Manuel Perez Nietos. Those lands, named Las Bolsas (the pockets of bays) covered 21 square miles, from which the cities of Huntington Beach, Garden Grove, Westminster and Fountain Valley have risen.

It was granted by Mexican Governor Jose Figueroa to Catarina Ruiz, the widow of one of the Nietos, Manuel Nietos dies in 1804, but it wasn't until 30 years later his holdings were divided at the request of his heirs. Seven years after that, the six square mile rancho to the northwest, Bolsa Chica (little pocket) was split off and granted to Joaquin Ruiz.

In the 1850's both Bolsa Chica and Las Bolsas came under the ownership of Don Abel Stearns, who became the largest owner of land and cattle in Southern California. A native of Massachusetts, he came to California in 1829 and settled as a trader in Los Angeles in 1833.

Stearn's successor, the Stearns Rancho Trust, ran cattle and horses and raised grain on the property, sold the swamp lands which were considered least valuable and retained the mesa.

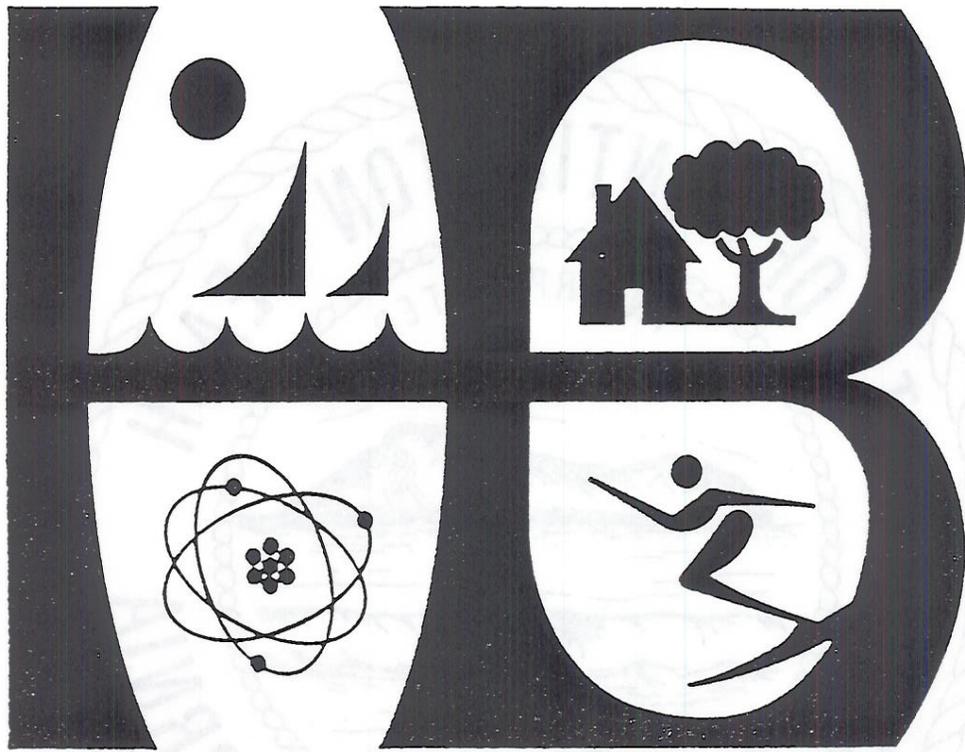
The five mile stretch of beach along the Rancho Las Bolsas was called Shell Beach, because of the numerous little bean clams, called Donax, that dotted the sand with color.

Midway along the beach the backland swelled into a low mesa, whose base was so eroded by the tides that a steep bluff was formed. It was on the mesa that the town of Huntington Beach was created. Colonel Robert Northam purchased this mesa from the Stearns Rancho Company, of which he was manager. The swamp lands surrounding the mesa became known as "Gospel Swamp". because it was used by early minister-settlers to preach the Gospel. Although no regular church existed, residents could find a continuous series of revival meetings in "Gospel Swamp".

Swamp surrounded the mesa most of the year making it almost inaccessible to Shell Beach. There were no railroads, bridges, nor roads to the beach from any direction.

In 1901, Philip Stanton formed a local syndicate and bought 1500 acres of Rancho Las Bolsas from Robert Northam for the sum of \$100,000. The syndicate organized the West Coast Land and Water Company and on high ground above Shell Beach laid out streets and lots in a forty acre tract. It was Stanton's dream to build a town on the Pacific Coast that would rival Atlantic City on the east coast, and so the project was named Pacific City. A water system was installed, streets were paved, and a pavilion was built on the ocean front. To show signs of habitation, a church and a residence were hauled in from the defunct town of Fairview. In drilling a well for domestic water, considerable gas came out of the hole, much to the annoyance of the promoters. In August 1901, the first lots were placed on the market with prices ranging from \$100 to \$200 each. A number were given away to persons who would agree to build some kind of structure immediately. In 1902, Philip Stanton sold his interest in Pacific City to the Vail-Gates group of Los Angeles.

Henry E. Huntington, who owned the Pacific Electric Railroad and was a heavy stock holder in the Southern Pacific Lines, became interested in Pacific City. His "Red Cars" were already running to Long Beach and the Southern Pacific owned the rails from Newport Beach. Buying an interest in West Coast Land and Water Co., he extended his Red Car line



**HUNTINGTON BEACH**

CITY LOGO

Designed by: John Casado

3/4/68

## TOP 20 BUSINESS CATEGORIES

Business Type	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1995		3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1994		Prior 4th Quarter	% Of Total		
	Count	\$	Count	\$	Average	City	County	State
New Motor Vehicle Dealers	13	\$551,035	15	\$581,014	\$ 518,844	14.6%	9.6%	10.4%
Department Stores	13	270,570	17	288,386	299,021	7.2%	9.0%	8.2%
Service Stations	56	254,451	56	252,418	249,509	6.8%	5.1%	6.4%
Grocery Stores Liquor	28	220,139	29	202,627	187,906	5.8%	4.0%	4.0%
Lumber/Building Materials	16	206,764	18	268,404	205,689	5.5%	3.2%	3.6%
Fast Food	257	199,242	235	184,108	183,444	5.3%	4.0%	5.4%
Light Industrial/Printers	554	150,094	490	154,055	132,971	4.0%	6.0%	5.1%
Radio/Appliance Stores	22	145,396	19	140,591	146,168	3.9%	1.8%	1.6%
Specialty Stores	405	121,274	342	135,897	130,415	3.2%	3.4%	3.1%
Restaurants Beer/Wine	126	109,241	120	101,165	101,191	2.9%	2.4%	2.4%
Home Furnishings	91	98,380	86	106,796	101,732	2.6%	2.0%	1.9%
Restaurants Liquor	51	90,750	58	99,905	90,039	2.4%	3.1%	3.1%
Auto Repair Shops	202	79,096	199	71,845	72,715	2.1%	1.2%	1.3%
Sporting Goods/Bike Stores	42	72,751	40	63,728	70,582	1.9%	1.3%	1.0%
Drug Stores	26	65,953	26	57,979	78,308	1.7%	1.4%	1.7%
Office Furniture	71	59,953	62	54,293	55,000	1.6%	2.9%	2.7%
Women's/Family Apparel	54	59,059	45	57,627	65,037	1.6%	1.2%	1.1%
Contractors	122	57,270	114	63,475	52,712	1.5%	3.0%	3/2%
Family Apparel	48	55,389	47	55,050	48,888	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%
Heavy Industrial	179	54,902	142	56,916	61,986	1.5%	1.3%	1.8%
Retail Stores	1,849	2,939,331	1,705	3,017,975	2,891,012	78.0%	67.4%	71.6%
Part-Time Businesses	3,187	76,228	2,920	74,560	85,197	2.0%	1.1%	0.8%
Business/Personal Services	1,124	309,104	1,096	308,348	302,835	8.2%	10.1%	8.6%
All Other Outlets(Industrial)	1,397	443,596	1,216	508,599	418,444	11.8%	21.4%	19.0%
Total All Accounts	7,557	\$3,768,260	6,937	\$3,909,482	\$3,697,488			

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH  
CITY FEATURES**

Assessed Valuation*		Authorized Building Permits**		
			Single Family Dwellings	Multiple Family Dwellings
		1980	613	222
		1981	302	448
1982-83	\$ 5,672,213,998	1982	126	83
1983-84	\$ 6,292,926,314	1983	996	19
1984-85	\$ 6,725,806,949	1984	944	532
1985-86	\$ 7,375,476,490	1985	271	608
1986-87	\$ 8,000,260,977	1986	383	645
1987-88	\$ 8,364,799,879	1987	514	433
1988-89	\$ 8,580,201,414	1988	1,098	311
1989-90	\$ 9,033,404,047	1989	229	270
1990-91	\$ 9,982,432,040	1990	91	180
1991-92	\$11,328,131	1991	74	79
1992-93	\$11,885,845	1992	82	60
1993-94	\$11,875,885	1993	165	43
1994-95	\$12,314,146	1994	154	46
		1995	145	20

\* Source: City Resolutions Nos. 5554, 811, 5915, 6058, 6207

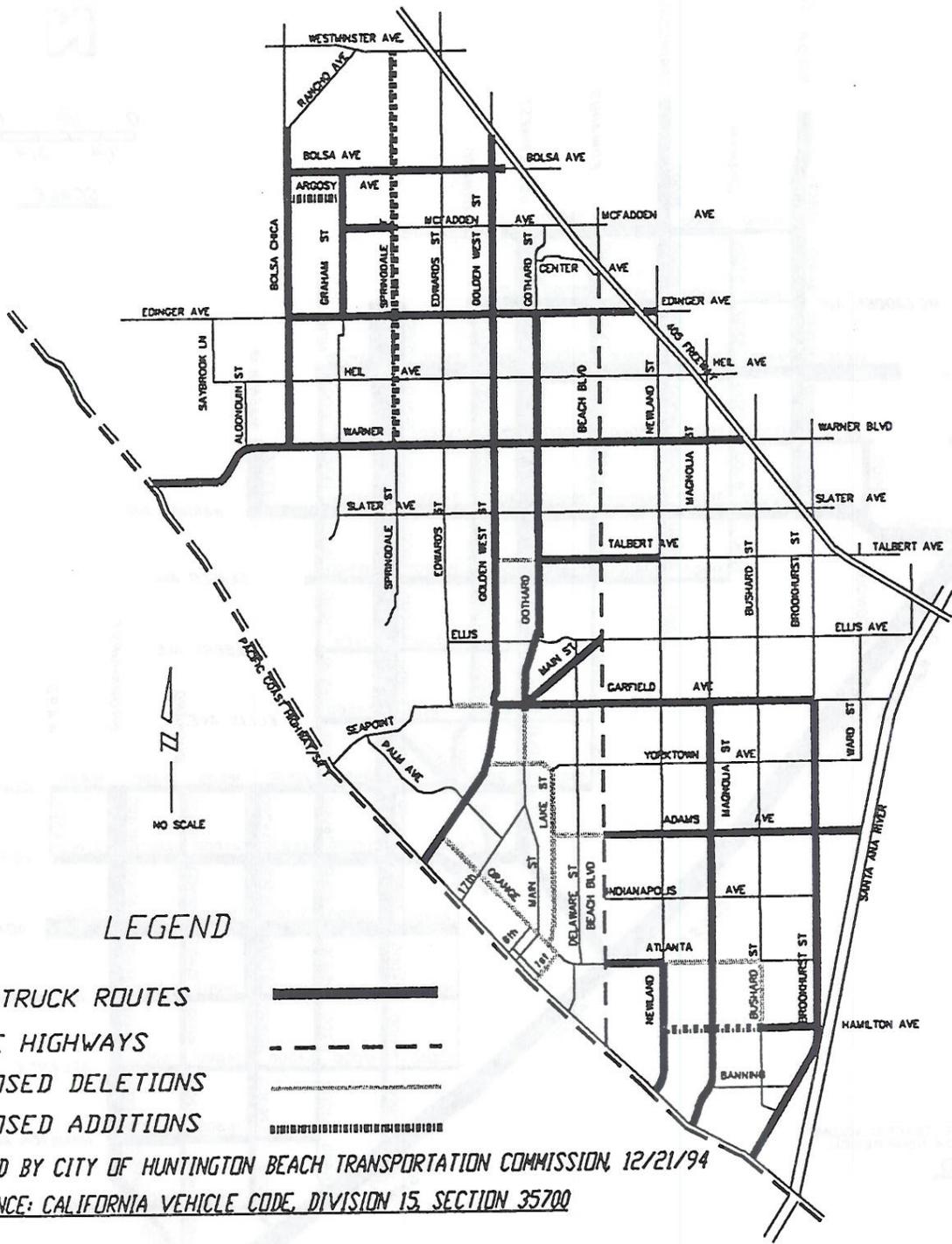
\*\*Source: Community Development Department

**NUMBER OF  
HOUSING UNITS:**

**TOTAL VALUATION OF BUILDING ACTIVITIES:**

		(in thousands of dollars)		
		<u>Residential</u> (including alterations)	<u>Nonresidential</u> (Comm/Indus/Other)	<u>Total</u>
1980 - 61,126	1980	\$33,360,432	\$ 44,212,463	\$77,572,895
1981 - 65,044	1981	33,482,935	64,208,740	97,691,675
1982 - 65,521	1982	12,208,686	27,069,458	39,269,144
1983 - 66,102	1984	64,872,182	62,282,404	127,154,586
1985 - 67,308	1985	51,838,713	97,183,610	148,022,323
1986 - 68,686	1986	77,601,402	75,387,900	152,989,302
1987 - 69,500	1987	77,476,722	142,666,505	220,134,227
1988 - 70,052	1988	182,705,851	70,919,505	253,624,998
1989 - 71,156	1989	60,607,990	89,534,742	150,142,732
1990 - 71,966	1990	28,078,449	23,445,990	79,632,952
1991 - 73,218*	1991	24,475,891	16,136,944	73,062,242
1992 - 73,371	1992	23,226,720	36,220,235	59,446,955
1993 - 73,589	1993	41,795,385	21,092,526	62,887,911
1994 - 73,791	1994	41,017,190	22,702,607	63,719,797
1995 - 73,978	1995	37,851,080	18,332,168	56,183,248

\*\* Source: Community Development Department



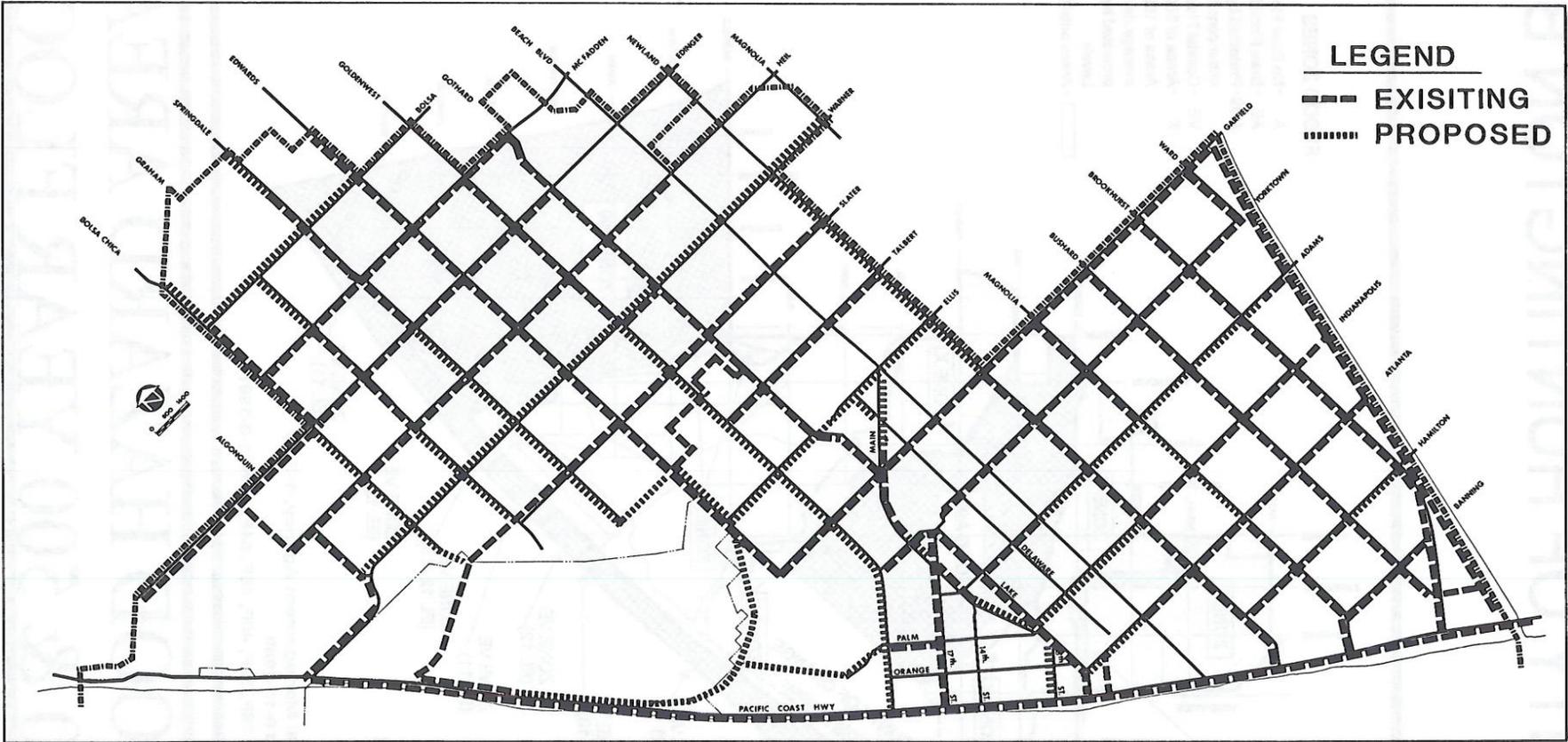
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CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH • PUBLIC WORKS • TRAFFIC ENGINEERING



TRUCK ROUTE  
MAP (38)

DATE:  
3/97



# MASTER PLAN OF BIKEWAYS 1989

**AMENDMENTS**

PLANNING COMMISSION		CITY COUNCIL	
DATE	RESOLUTION NUMBER	DATE	RESOLUTION NUMBER
0-17-78	128	11-6-78	189

# CIRCULATION PLAN OF ARTERIAL STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO. 4368 - DEC. 12, 1976

**LEGEND:**

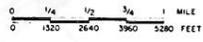
	FREEWAY	STREET CAPACITY
	MAJOR	45,000
	PRIMARY	30,000
	SECONDARY	20,000

**NOTE:**

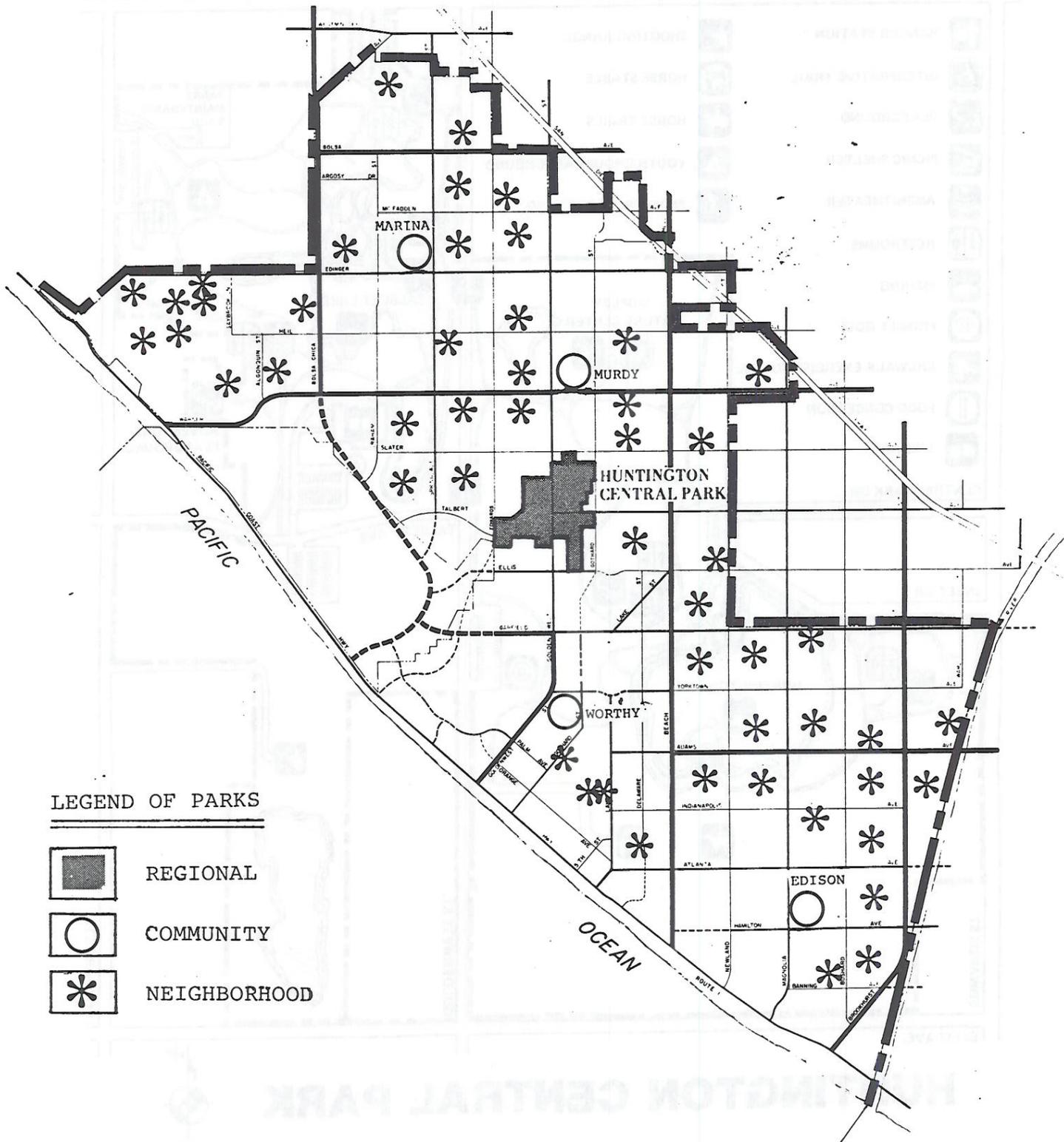
SOLID LINES INDICATE EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY  
NOT NECESSARILY ULTIMATE RIGHT OF WAY  
DASHED LINES INDICATE AREAS WHERE NO RIGHT OF WAY EXISTS



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



PREPARED BY THE HUNTINGTON BEACH PLANNING DEPARTMENT



LEGEND OF PARKS

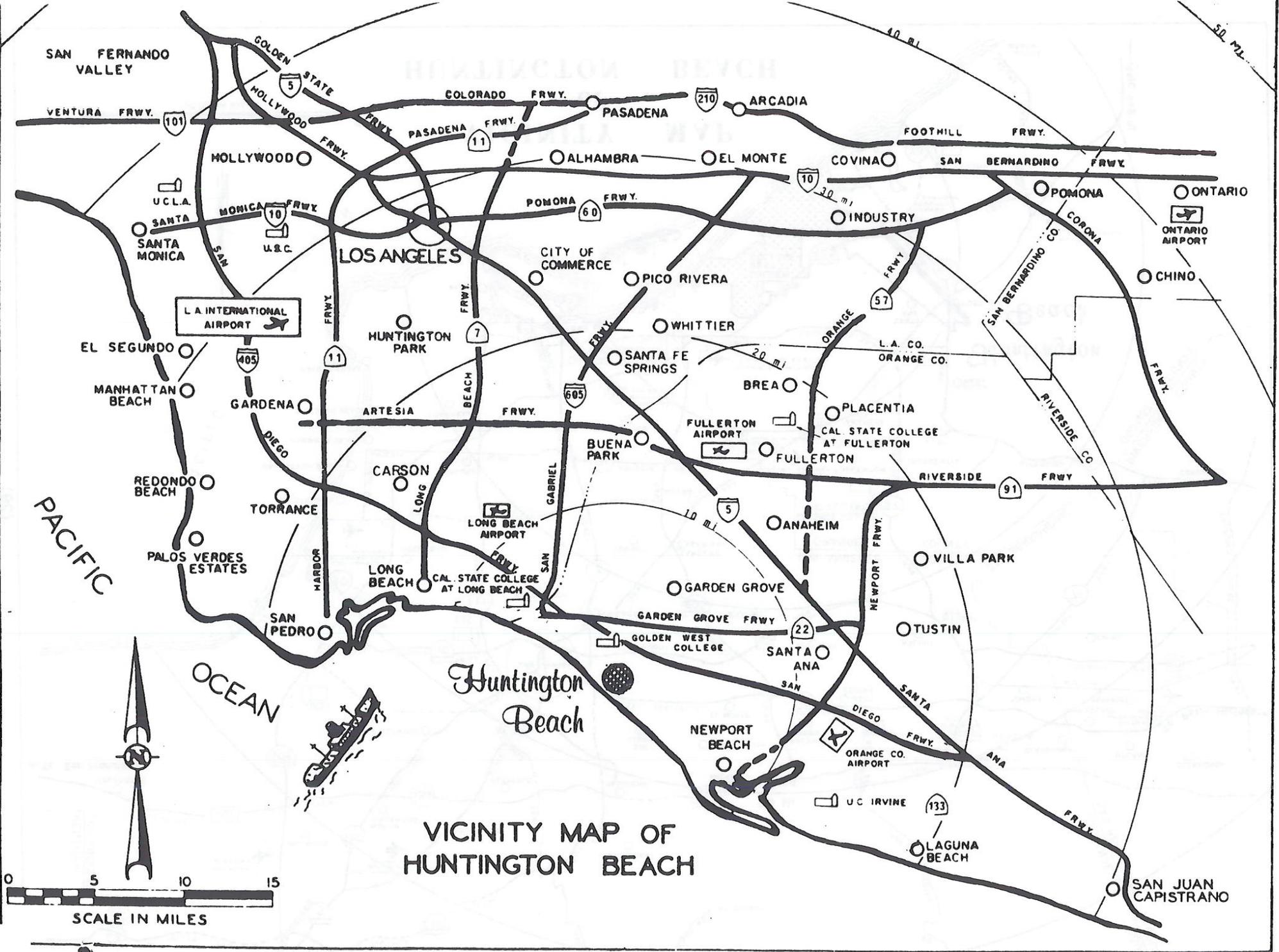
-  REGIONAL
-  COMMUNITY
-  NEIGHBORHOOD

PREPARED BY THE HUNTINGTON BEACH PLANNING DEPARTMENT



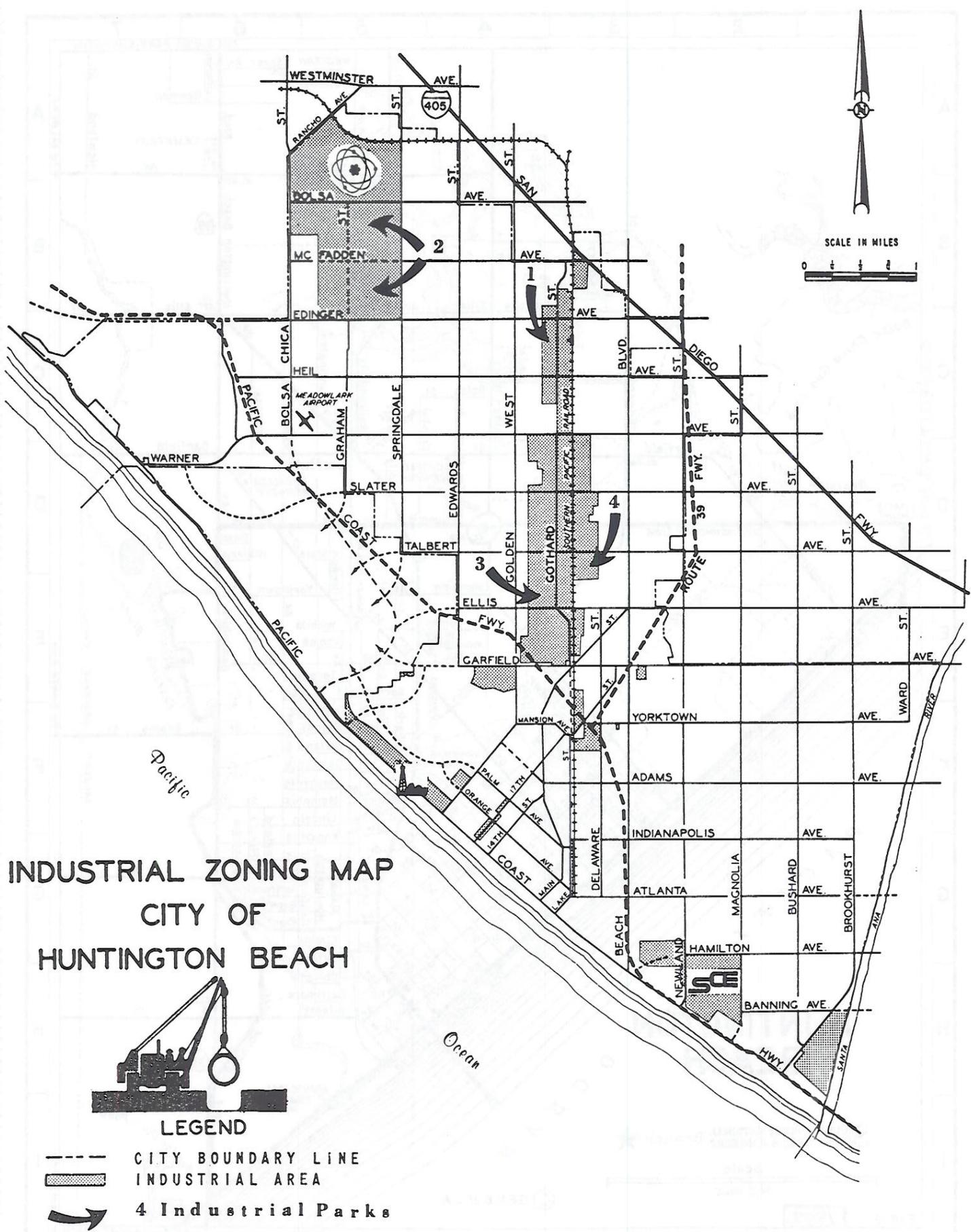
HUNTINGTON BEACH CALIFORNIA  
PLANNING DIVISION

(30)

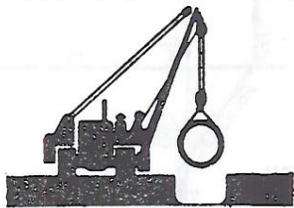


VICINITY MAP OF HUNTINGTON BEACH



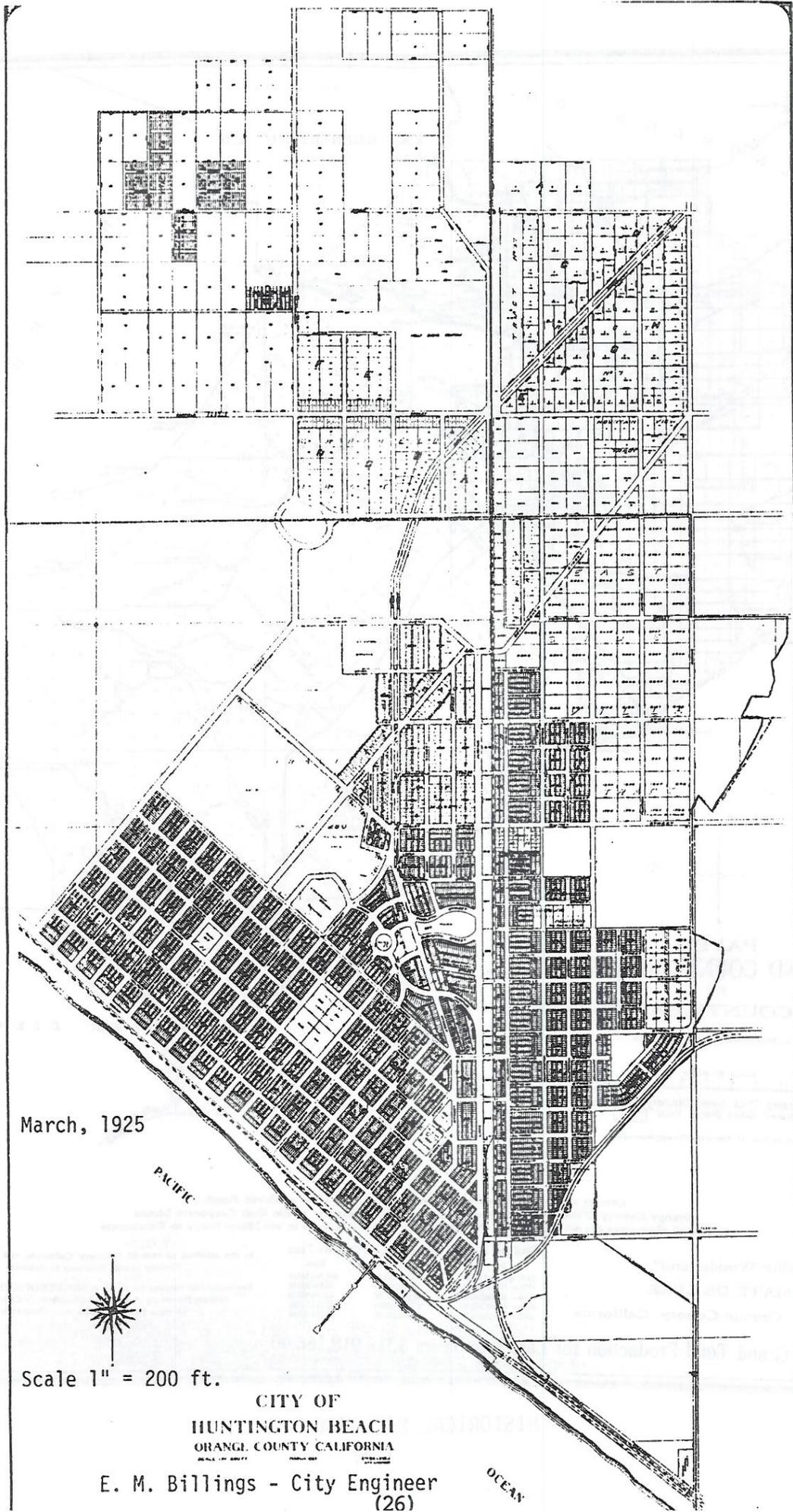


**INDUSTRIAL ZONING MAP  
CITY OF  
HUNTINGTON BEACH**



**LEGEND**

-  CITY BOUNDARY LINE
-  INDUSTRIAL AREA
-  4 Industrial Parks



March, 1925



Scale 1" = 200 ft.

CITY OF  
HUNTINGTON BEACH  
ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA

E. M. Billings - City Engineer  
(26)



1909-1924 2 Year Term  
 1924- 4 Year Term

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

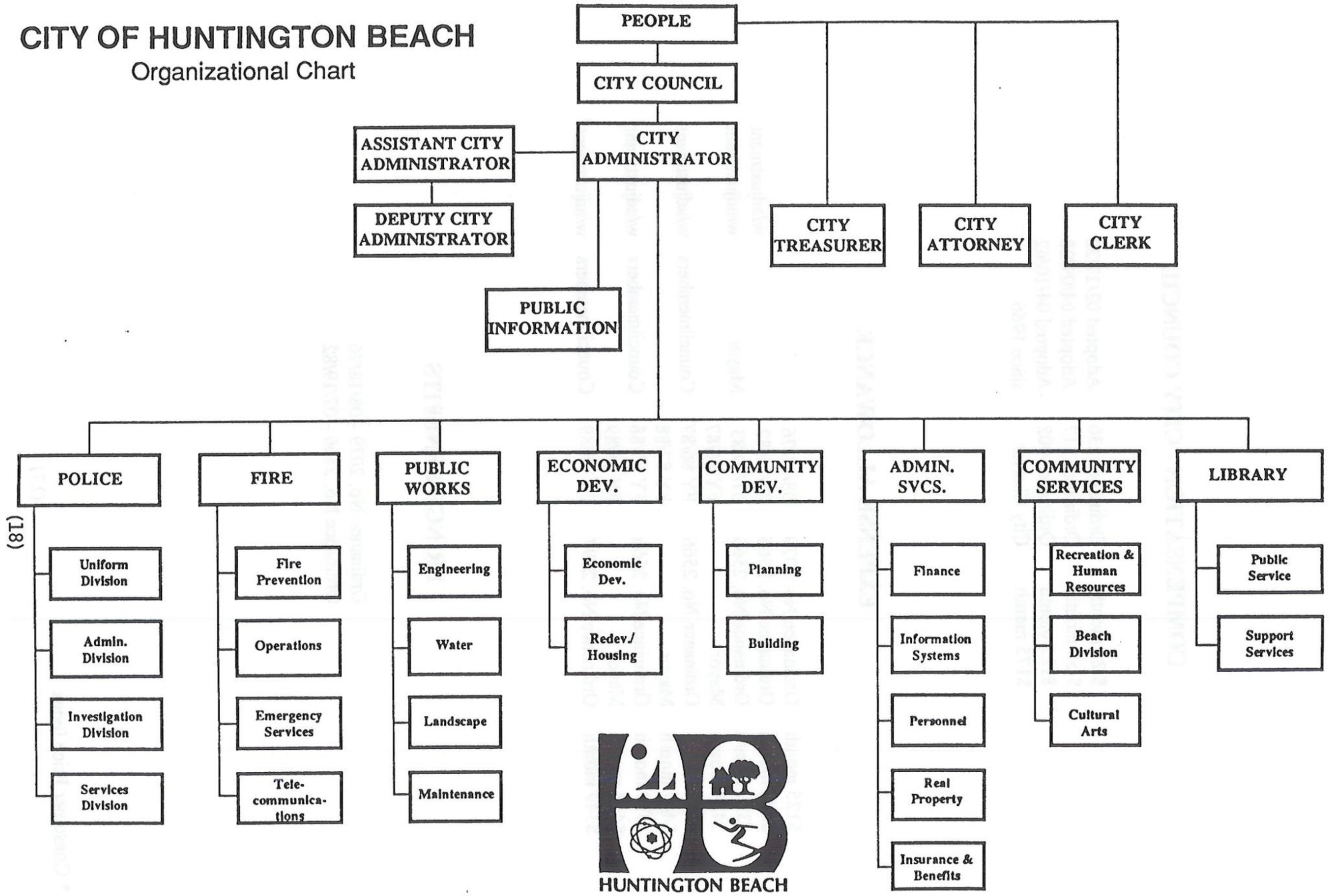
1.	03/01/09 10/25/09	M.D. ROSENBERGER	Bonded Resigned	7 months
2.	11/22/09	E.R.BRADBURG	Appointed	5 months
3.	04/11/10 04/15/12	C.E.LAVERING	Elected Elected	4 Years
4.	04/13/14 07/31/22	CHARLES R. NUTT	Elected Resigned	8 years
5.	07/31/22 04/14/24 06/01/26	W. R. WRIGHT	Appointed to fill unexpired term Elected Resigned	4 years
6.	06/01/26 04/16/28 06/02/47	CHARLES R. FURR	appointed to fill unexpired term Elected Resigned	20 years,11 months
7.	06/02/47 04/19/48	JOHN L. HENRICKSEN	Appointed to fill unexpired term Elected	12 years,10 months
8.	04/18/60 04/01/73	PAUL C JONES	Elected Deceased	13 years
9.	04/30/73 04/09/74 07/08/88	ALICIA M. WENTWORTH	Appointed to fill unexpired term Elected Retired	15 years,2 months
10.	07/09/88 11/08/88 11/03/92 11/05/96	CONNIE BROCKWAY	Appointed Elected Elected Elected	

Page 2 - City Councilmembers

- 1948 IO Greer, Terry, Hawes, Langenbeck, Bartlett  
E Greer, LeBard, Seabridge
- 1950 IO Wood, Seabridge, Langenbeck, Greer, LeBard  
E Langenbeck, Talbert
- 1952 IO Greer, Talbert, Seabridge, LeBard, Langenbeck  
E LeBard, Seabridge, Wood
- 1954 IO Bryant, Talbert, Wood, LeBard, Seabridge  
E Bartlett, Lockett
- 1956 IO Terry, Bartlett, LeBard, Seabridge, Lockett  
E Bryant, Irby, Terry
- 1958 IO Bryant, Lockett, Irby, Bartlett, Terry  
E Lambert, Waite
- 1960 IO Sork, Lambert, Terry, Waite, Irby  
E Gisler, Stewart, Wills
- 1962 IO Wells, Lambert, Stewart, Waite, Gisler  
E Lambert, Welch
- 1964 IO Gisler, Stewart, Welch, Lambert, Wells  
E Gisler, Stewart, Shipley
- 1966 IO Gisler, Stewart, Lambert, Shipley, Welch (1966 Charter Amendment  
E Coen, Kaufman, Green, Bartlett 5 to 7 Councilmen)
- 1968 IO Coen, Bartlett, Gisler, Kaufman, Stewart, Green, Shipley  
E Shipley, Matney, McCracken
- 1970 IO Shipley, Bartlett, McCracken, Matney, Coen, Green, Kaufman  
E Bartlett, Coen, Green, Gibbs
- 1972 IO Shipley, Bartlett, McCracken, Matney, Coen, Green, Gibbs  
E Shipley, Matney, Duke
- 1974 IO Shipley, Bartlett, Gibbs, Green, Coen, Duke, Matney  
E Bartlett, Coen, Gibbs, Wieder
- 1976 IO Bartlett, Wieder, Coen, Matney, Shipley, Duke, Gibbs  
E Siebert, Shenkman, Pattinson, Finley
- 1978 IO Bartlett, Pattinson, Coen, Siebert, Shenkman, Wieder, Gibbs  
E Mandic, MacAllister, Bailey, Thomas  
R Shenkman, Siebert  
A Yoder

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

## Organizational Chart



(18)



# MAYORS PRO-TEMPORE

## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1966-1995

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES</u>	
Shiple, Donald D.	1966/67	
Green, N. John V. V.	1967/68	
Green, N. John V. V.	1968/69	
McCracken, George	1969/70	
Matney, Jerry A.	1971/72	
Bartlett, Ted W.	1972/73	
Duke, Henry	1973/74	
Wieder, Harriett M.	1975/76	
Pattinson, Ronald R.	1976/77	
Shenkman, Ron	1977/78	
Siebert, Richard W.	04/78 - 02/79	Resigned
Thomas, John A.	03/79 - 04/79	
Mandic, Robert P. Jr.	1979/80	
Finley, Ruth	1980/81	
Pattinson, Ron	1981/82	
MacAllister, Don	1982/83	
Kelly, Jack	04/83 - 11/83	
Thomas, John A.	11/83 - 12/84	
Mandic, Robert P. Jr.	12/84 - 11/85	
Finley, Ruth	11/85 - 12/86	
Erskine, John	12/86 - 11/87	
Mays, Tom	12/87 - 11/89	
Green, Peter	12/89 - 12/90	
Silva, Jim	12/90 - 12/91	
Winchell, Grace	12/91 - 12/93	
Moulton-Patterson, Linda	12/92 - 12/93	
Robitaille, Earle	12/93 - 12/94	
Sullivan, Dave	12/94 - 12/95	
Bauer, Ralph	12/95 - 12/96	
Dettloff, Shirley	12/96 - 12/97	

**MAYORS**  
**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
**1909 - 1995**

<u>DATE ELECTED</u>	<u>TOTAL YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES ON COUNCIL</u>
			President of the Board
02/18/09	3	1. Ed Manning	02/18/09 - 11/20/12 Resigned
04/15/12	2	2. W. D. Seely	04/18/10 - 04/11/14
04/06/14	3	3. E. E. French	04/11/14 - 04/24/16
04/17/16	1	4. M. E. Helme	02/18/09 - 05/14/17 Resigned
05/07/17	1	5. W. E. Tarbox	04/27/14 - 04/08/18
04/15/18	10 mos.	E. E. French	04/08/18 - 02/17/19 Resigned
02/17/19	2	6. Joseph Vavra	05/14/17 - 04/20 Replaced Helme
04/19/20	3	Ed Manning	02/17/19 - 04/22 Replaced French
04/03/22	2	7. Richard Drew	04/08/18 - 04/26
04/21/24	2	8. Lawrence Ridenaur	04/24 - 10/25/26 Resigned
04/19/26	2	9. C. G. Boster	04/24 - 04/28
04/16/28	3	10. Samuel R. Bowen	04/28 - 04/31 Resigned Mayor
04/13/31	3	11. Elson G. Conrad	04/28 - 04/34 Resigned
04/01/34	?	12. Thomas B. Talbert	11/13/33 Special Election
04/20/36	2	13. Willis H. Warner	04/34 - 04/38
04/18/38	2	14. Marcus M. McCallen	04/38 - 04/42
04/21/42	6	Thomas B. Talbert	04/42 - 04/54
04/15/46	2	15. Ted W. Bertlett	04/44 - 04/48, 4/54 04/58, 04/66 - 04/78
04/19/48	2	16. Jack Greer	04/48 - 04/52
04/17/50	2	17. Vernon E. Langenbeck	04/46 - 07/53 Resigned
04/14/52	4	18. Roy Seabridge	04/48 - 04/56
04/16/56	2	19. Victor Terry	10/11/54 - 05/56 Replaced Seabridge
04/14/58	2	20. Earl T. Irby	04/56 - 05/60
04/18/60	2	21. Ernest H. Gisler	05/60 - 04/68
05/07/62	2	22. Robert M. Lambert	04/58 - 04/66
04/12/64	2	23. Donald D. Shipley	04/64 - 04/76
04/17/66	1	24. Jake R. Stewart	04/60 - 04/68
04/17/67	1	Donald D. Shipley	04/64 - 04/76
04/16/68	1	25. Alvin M. Coen	04/66 - 04/78

# BUDGETS

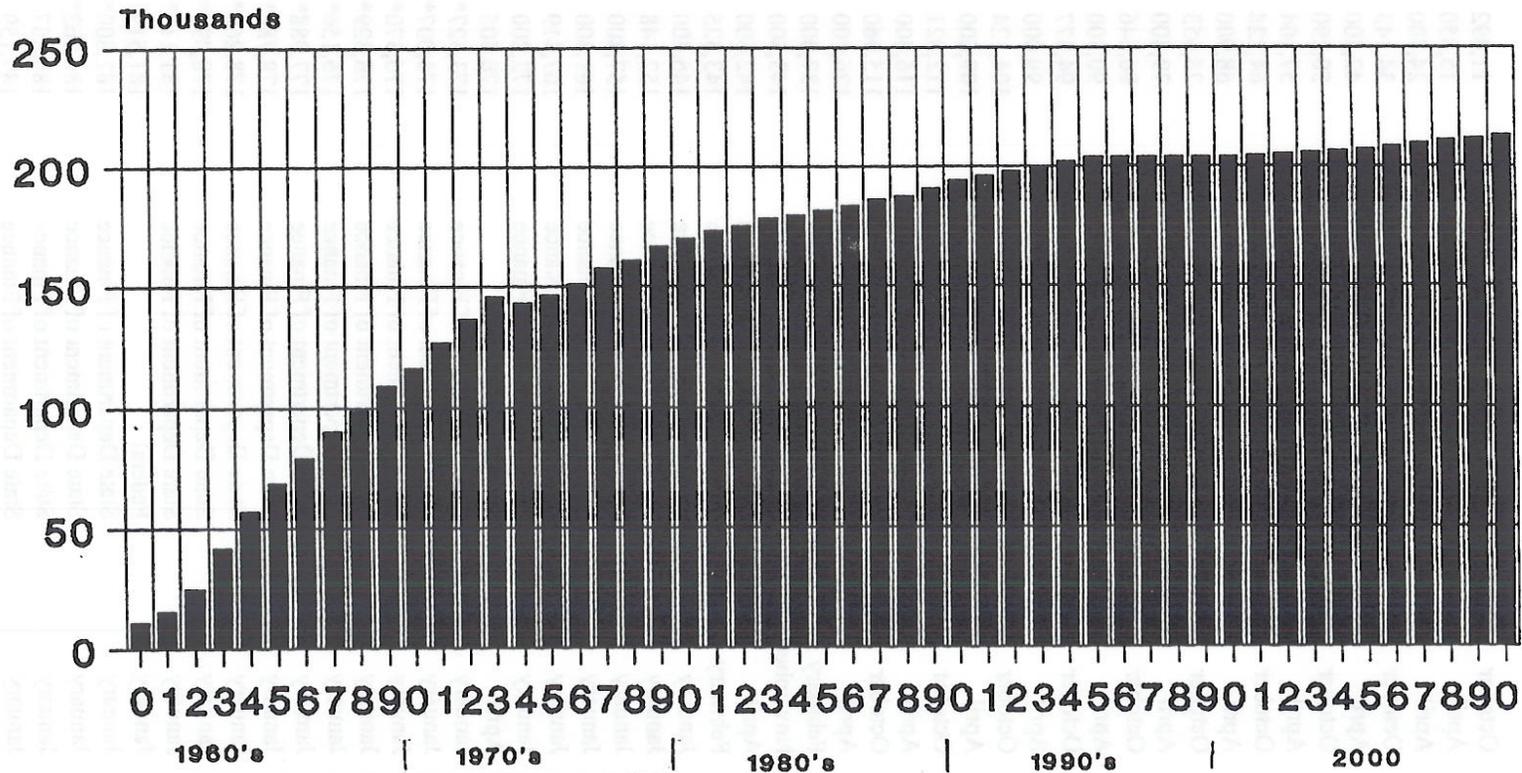
## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1965 - 1997

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>
1965-66	75,053	\$5,075,123	\$6,436,062
1966-67	87,646	5,361,940	7,215,727
1967-68	94,377	6,070,868	8,555,294
1968-69	104,124	7,170,114	9,947,759
1969-70	112,021	8,848,880	12,521,553
1970-71	115,960	10,798,879	14,915,756
1971-72	137,000	11,207,584	16,500,703
1972-73	143,500	14,201,512	19,284,974
1973-74	146,300	19,171,051	23,380,533
1974-75	143,325	22,489,199	31,790,611
1975-76	146,400	24,117,187	34,363,255
1976-77	151,500	27,000,940	39,821,036
1977-78	157,800	30,976,571	53,191,558
1978-79	161,300	31,521,765	52,568,390
1979-80	167,419	35,902,254	50,566,036
1980-81	172,200	42,047,169	62,392,231
1981-82	173,327	47,212,276	74,092,663
1982-83	175,077	51,033,990	76,847,222
1983-84	176,370	54,281,000	84,723,663
1984-85	176,329	59,715,204	89,689,112
1985-86	176,156	67,300,000	97,500,000
1986-87	177,988	70,634,126	109,213,719
1987-88	178,788	75,191,619	132,255,726
1988-89	178,260	79,672,569	146,511,031
1989-90	178,896	94,594,190	176,747,308
1990-91	181,115	94,316,355	178,965,009
1991-92	182,800	100,078,554	189,529,911
1992-93	184,962	97,759,679	204,414,107
1993-94	186,867	98,007,385	195,173,508
1994-95	189,159	94,227,483	190,383,809
1995-96	188,990	95,619,916	190,366,861
1996-97	188,500	98,066,822	198,993,325

(12)

# Cumulative Population Growth City of Huntington Beach



■ Population Growth



Source: Dept. of Community Development

(10)

POPULATION

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1910.....	815
1920.....	1687
1930 (Census).....	3690
1940 (Census).....	3738
1942 (Estimate).....	4912
1943 (Estimate).....	5048
1946 (Special Census).....	5173
1950 (Census).....	5258
1953 (Special Census).....	5871

ORANGE COUNTY

1940 (Census).....	130,760
1948 (Estimate).....	200,000
1950 (Census).....	214,061
1953 (Estimate).....	269,900

Page 4 - Election Statistics from 1958

DATE	ELECTION TYPE	PURPOSE	REGISTERED VOTER	TOTAL VOTERS	VOTE	PERCENT
11/82	S	Special Election Consolidated w/County	97,538	62,521		64%
		<u>Propositions:</u>				
		L-Change General Municipal Election from April to November			L- Y-47,791 N-10,003	
11/06/84	G	General Municipal Consolidated w/County	102,734	78,878		77%
		<u>Measures:</u>				
		D-Eliminate 2-term limit			D- Y-20,711 N-48,489	
		E-City Clerk-Appointive			E- Y-21,821 N-44,966	(FAILED)
		F-City Treasurer-Appointive			F- Y-20,166 N-46,230	(FAILED)
		G-City Clerk-Qualifications			G- Y-40,100 N-26,415	
		H-City Treasurer-Qualifications			H- Y-41,855 N-25,008	
		Councilmember Finley			33,135	
		Councilmember Kelley			32,850	
		Councilmember Green			19,369	
		City Clerk Alicia Wentworth			53,162	
		City Treasurer Warren Hall			52,877	
11/04/86	G	General Municipal	99,735	58,619		58.7%
		Councilmember Erskine			20,917	
		Councilmember Mays			19,467	
		Councilmember Bannister			17,333	
		Councilmember Winchell			15,909	
		City Attorney Gail Hutton			31,338	
11/08/88	G	General Municipal	107,227	82,021		76.4%
		<u>Measures:</u>				
		J- Citizen's Sensible Growth and Traffic Control Initiative			J- Y-35,472 N-36,074	
		Councilmember Silva			29,634	
		Councilmember Green			28,975	
		Councilmember MacAllister			27,603	
		City Clerk Connie Brockway			30,317	
		Treasurer Don Watson			53,057	

Page 2 - Election Statistics from 1958

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ELECTION TYPE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTER</u>	<u>TOTAL VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
11/68	G	General Municipal	43,385	Unknown		
		<u>Propositions:</u>				
		M-Park Bond			M-Y-22,009 N-13,648	
		N-Library			N- Y-21,514 N-13,638	
		O-Attorney Appointed			0- Y-15,037 N-19,264	(FAILED)
06/69	S	Special Municipal	38,869	8,052		
		Park Bonds			Y- 5,983 N- 2,066	
04/70	G	General Municipal	41,291	14,339		
11/70	S	Special Municipal	48,547	32,290		
		<u>Propositions:</u>				
		K-Elective Mayor & Compensation for Council Prop L, M, & N (Misc.)			K- Y-16,060 N-16,230	
06/30/71		18 year old vote established				
04/72	G	General Municipal	50,540	15,660		31%
06/72	S	Special Municipal	56,307	39,339		
		<u>Measure:</u>				
		C-Fluoride			C- Y-23,161 N-15,194	
		D-Compensation: Treasurer, Clerk, & Council			D- Y- 9,533 N-27,175	
11/73	S	Special Municipal	61,500	27,100		44%
		<u>Measures:</u>				
		Attorney Appointive			Y-11,674 N-15,522	(FAILED)
		City Clerk Appointive			Y-12,007 N-15,128	(FAILED)
		Treasurer Appointive			Y-11,906 N-15,663	(FAILED)
04/74	G	General Municipal	64,396	12,064		20%

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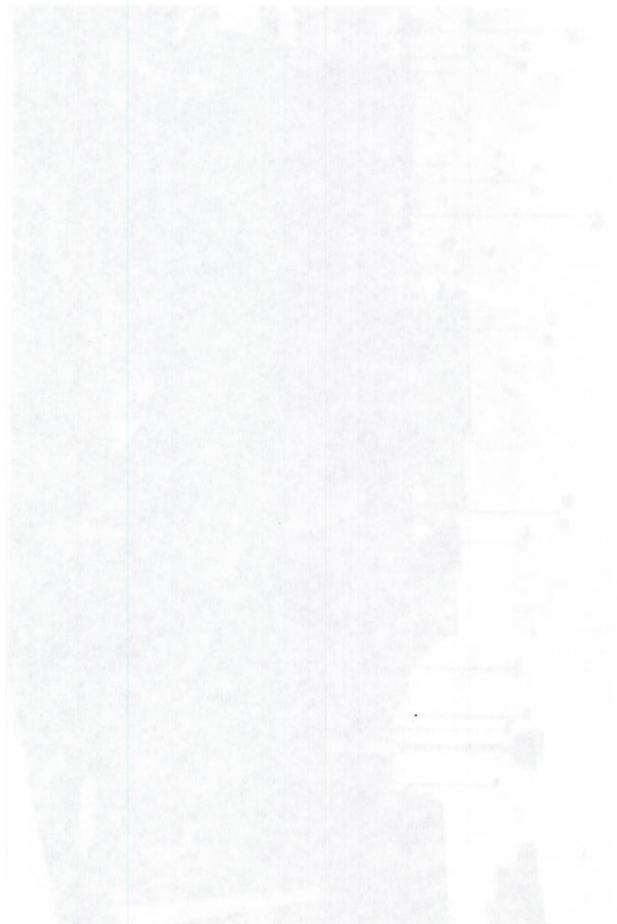
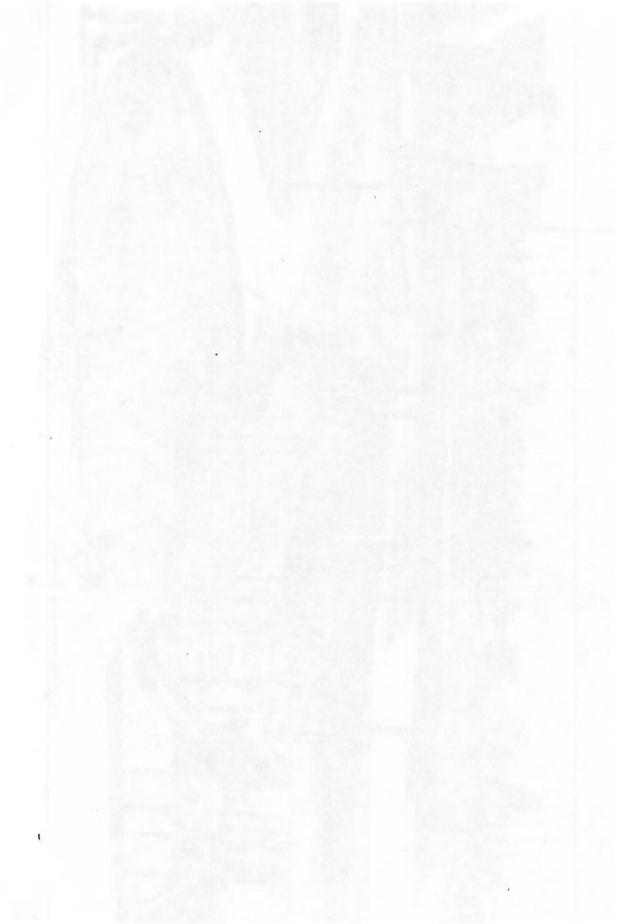
Updated:	10/79	01/85	01/91
	01/81	05/85	12/92
	06/81	03/86	01/93
	08/82	07/86	08/95
	05/83	06/87	08/97
	07/83	03/88	
	12/84	03/89	

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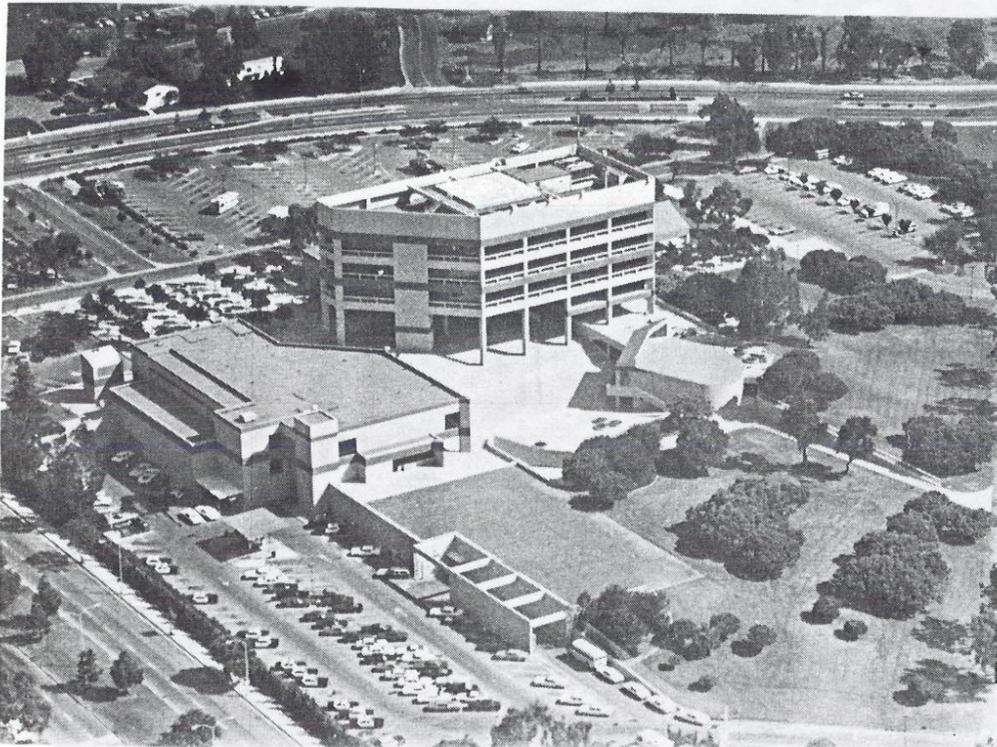
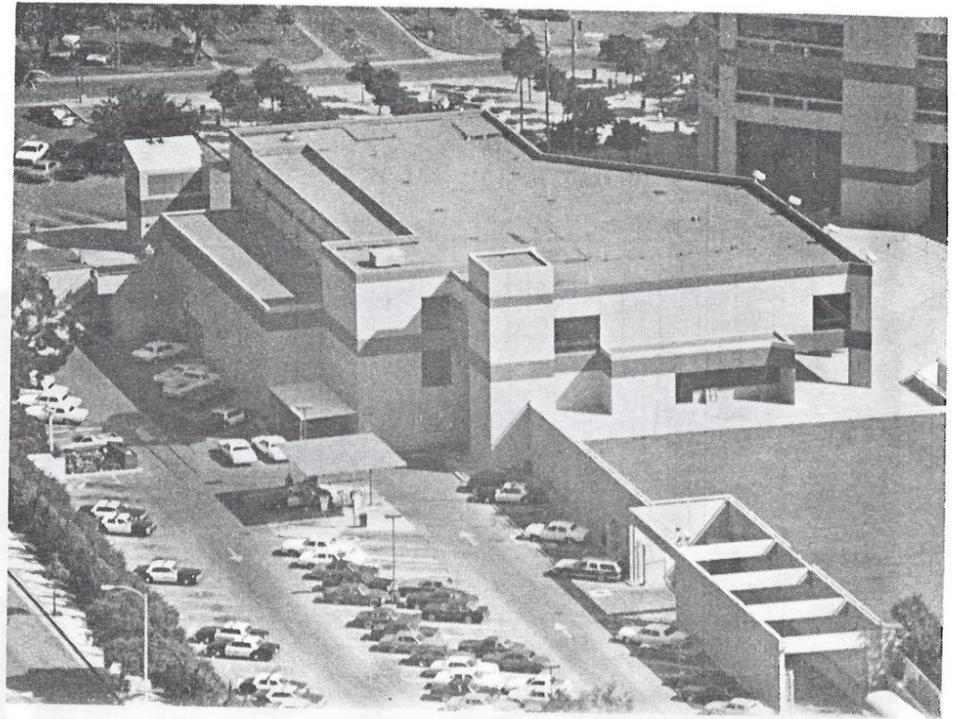
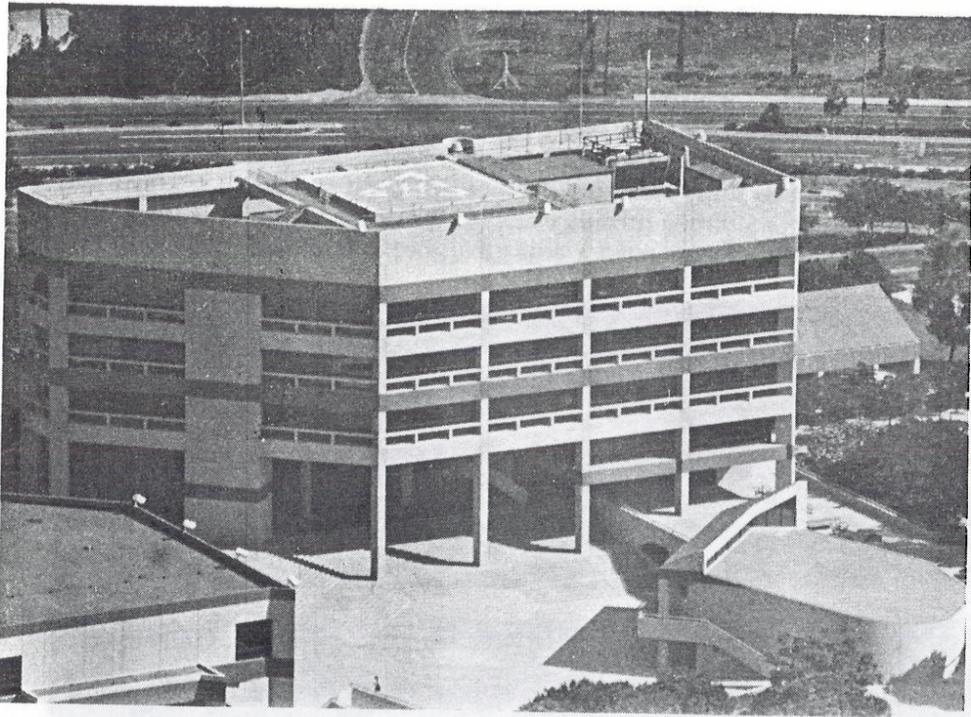
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THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of ...



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The new city hall complex was dedicated on March 30, 1974. Planned to serve a population of 270,000, the Civic Center consists of four major elements which are integrated into one unified complex. A five story administrative structure is connected to the separate two story police building/jail facility by an underground tunnel with both structures sharing a common underground floor. A single story development wing houses the Public Works engineering staff and Finance Personnel on the North side of the complex. The City Council Chambers, which seats 153, is connected to the complex on the South side by the lower level accessway. The Chamber is equipped with projection systems and equipment for use in viewing multi-media presentations. Also located in the lower level are several meeting rooms used for public and city staff meetings and occasional overflow seating for City Council meetings. Outside, an amphitheatre style central plaza ties all of the structures together. The plaza is used frequently for public gatherings such as school graduations, and other municipal ceremonies.



Construction began on the Huntington Harbour complex in 1963. Two islands, Admiralty and Gilbert seen in the photo above, were included in the first phase of development. The picture at the top right shows the harbour as it looked in 1969. Sunset Beach is the tiny shoreline community at the bottom left. Today, Huntington Harbour, as seen in the photo at the right, is a nearly completed project offering a wide variety of home styles in both single family and condominium units. Every year, during the Christmas season, the Harbour residents present a "Show of Lights" by dressing up their boats with lights and decorations for a parade through the Harbour. Residents and visitors attend the nightly parades which have become a locally well known attraction.



Other community facilities recently completed or under construction include various neighborhood parks, continued improvements to Central Park including new equestrian facilities within the park boundaries, a new Police Heliport Facility, ongoing improvements to the City's drainage system and the new cable television facility which is located in the lower level of City Hall. The T.V. unit provides public information programming as well as live coverage of City Council and Planning Commission meetings. On average, the City spends each year approximately 10% of its budget on community facilities and other capital improvements.

Huntington Beach has, without a doubt, a colorful history. Born of plans to create empires and fortunes, it has yielded fortunes of its own. Its coastal location, mild weather and shoreline characteristics have made surfing also a part of the City's heritage. Huntington Beach has long been known as one of the worlds great surf spots. Surfing has helped to put Huntington Beach on the map. Finally, in terms of history, the residents who have taken pride in their community have had the most to say. Their actions through the years have shaped the City in terms of both development and the appropriate control of development. Huntington Beach has been honored by various institutions and agencies for its actions in citizen involvement and government cooperation.

#### The Future

What happens to the City in the future will depend largely on what the residents, now in 1985 numbering over 180,000 have to say. Through the actions of their elected officials, the people will continue to shape the community. So far, the City has been well planned with appropriate mixes of residential, commercial and industrial uses integrated to provide a sound economic base from which to operate city services. The few areas in the City which have experienced some decline, are currently undergoing redevelopment or have plans in the making.

The Downtown Redevelopment Area Plan, referred to as the Main/Pier Project, is located in and around the original townsite and is completed in concept. Some final plans and decisions still have to be made, but the plan that has taken many years to evolve, will finally begin the construction phase sometime in 1986 and the result will be a new, revitalized business, shopping and living district built around the Main Street and Pacific Coast Highway intersection at the Pier.

**John Roulette**  
**Senior Budget Analyst-1986**

Geographically, the City remained small until a period between 1957 and 1959 when a series of annexations increased the area under its jurisdiction by over 20 square miles. This action allowed Huntington Beach to capture a large portion of the residential construction boom which occurred in western Orange County in the late 1950's and early 1960's. As a result, the City's population grew dramatically from 11,500 in the 1950's to nearly 116,000 in 1970, an increase of over 1,000 percent. This rapid growth gave Huntington Beach the distinction of being the fastest growing City in the nation during that time.

In 1963, the development of Huntington Harbour, a spectacular multi-million dollar project, turned swampland into a beautiful residential district of islands, channels and yachting facilities. Another new arrival in the City during 1963 was the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Space Systems Center. This facility and the Edison Generating Plant, constructed in 1956, brought many prospective residents to Huntington Beach. Population growth slowed during the 1970's as vacant land availability and average family size declined. As of January 1983, the City encompassed 27.74 square miles and had a population of 178,706.

The rapid growth in such a short period generated many serious problems, none insurmountable, but all requiring the attention of the City Council, City Administration and the taxpayers. The concerned citizens of the community got busy by forming or joining groups to study the problems and come up with solutions or recommendations.

Starting in the 60's, an emphasis was placed on the cultural and ecological climate through the efforts of citizens and government. Both an Environmental and Allied Arts Board have been established by the City Council. Huntington Beach became a Charter City in February 1937, by special action of the State Legislature. Today the City is served by a seven member Council. The Council selects its Mayor and City Administrator. It also selects the Planning and Community Services Commissions and the Personnel, Library and Design Review Boards as well as the Environmental and Allied Arts Board.

In 1968, with the need for more parks and open space, the citizens approved a \$6 million park bond by more than 70% of the vote. This provided for a 200 acre central park, two community centers and many neighborhood parks. In October, 1972, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new \$3 million library, designed by world famous architects Richard and Dion Neutra. The library was built on a hill in Central Park overlooking one of several lakes.

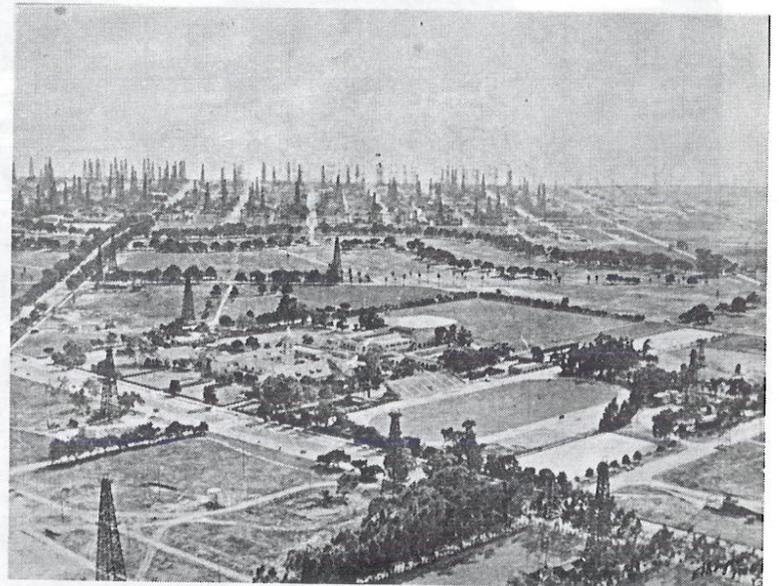
The City's new Civic Center Complex was completed in 1974 at a cost of \$7 million. The facilities include a modern six level central structure which houses most of the administrative, engineering and public service personnel and a detached three level police facility with a jail and communications center. Atop the main structure is a landing pad which is used primarily for the police helicopter, but with prior approval can be used for other, special landings. Located in the lower level, is a completely operational civil defense facility the construction of which was funded in part by the federal government. The facility has been used several times during natural disaster occurrences such as the storm and flooding which occurred in the spring of 1983. The City lost a large portion of the end of the public pier during that storm including the landmark "End of the Pier Cafe". Fortunately, through a combination of good insurance coverage and help from other governmental agencies, the pier has been reconstructed and strengthened and the new "End of the Pier Cafe" will open in 1985.



Arches spanned Ocean Avenue for many years, coming down only after time threatened to make the steel unsafe enough to call for their removal. Arches identified the city and provided a handy platform for Christmas decorations year after year.

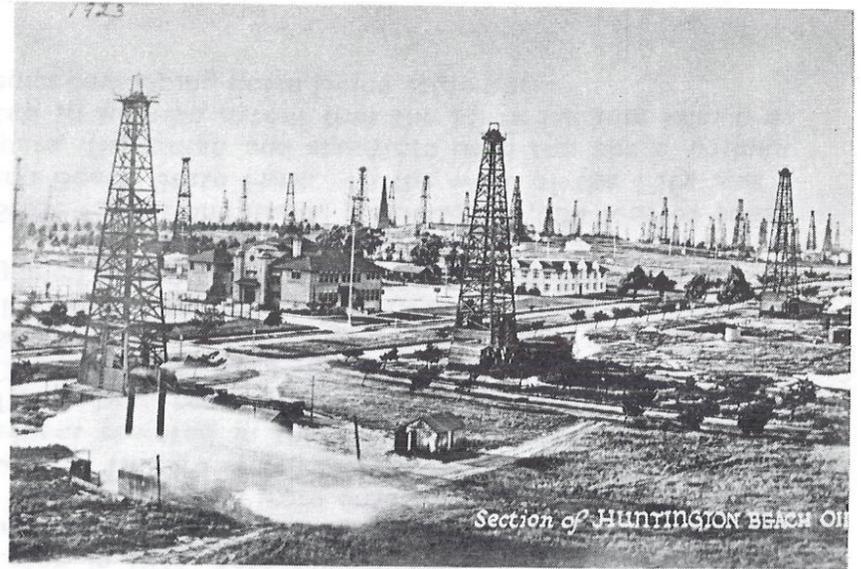
The 1946 aerial photo at the top shows the civic center at 5th and Orange with the original oil fields in the background to the north.

Huntington Beach High School is in the center of the 1946 aerial photo at the bottom. The view is looking southwest toward the townlot oil field which opened up twenty years earlier.

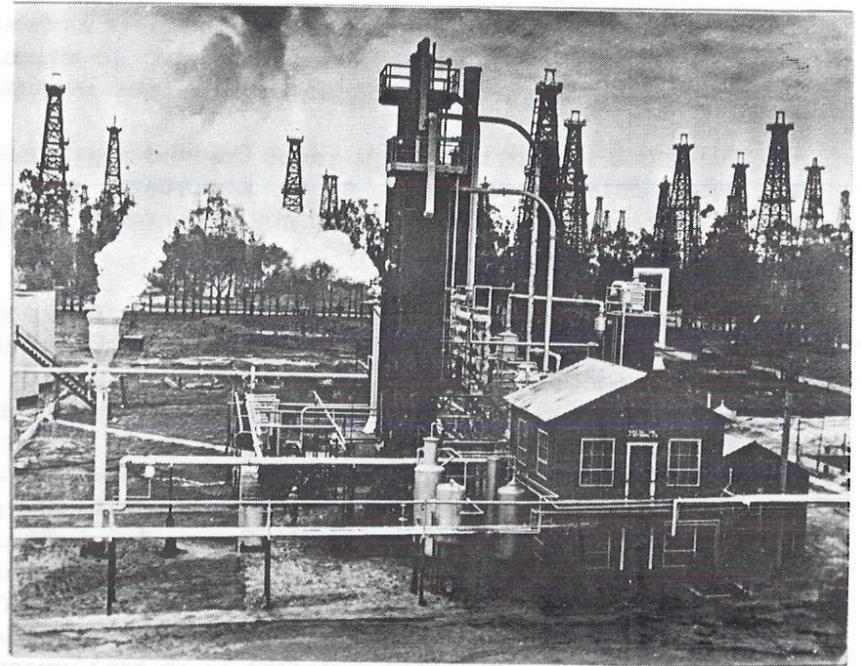




This 1932 photo of the coastline west of the pier, shows the "Townlot Field" which was the second oil boom that occurred in 1926. The little pier was at 23rd Street.



Oil became an important industry in the early twenties. Oil field scenes like these completely took over the landscape in many areas of the city. When the big oil boom hit, the Evangeline Hotel on 8th Street (pictured above) was pressed into service by the Standard Oil Company to house men from all over the nation. Through the years, the hotel has housed the men who helped to build the city and it's industry.



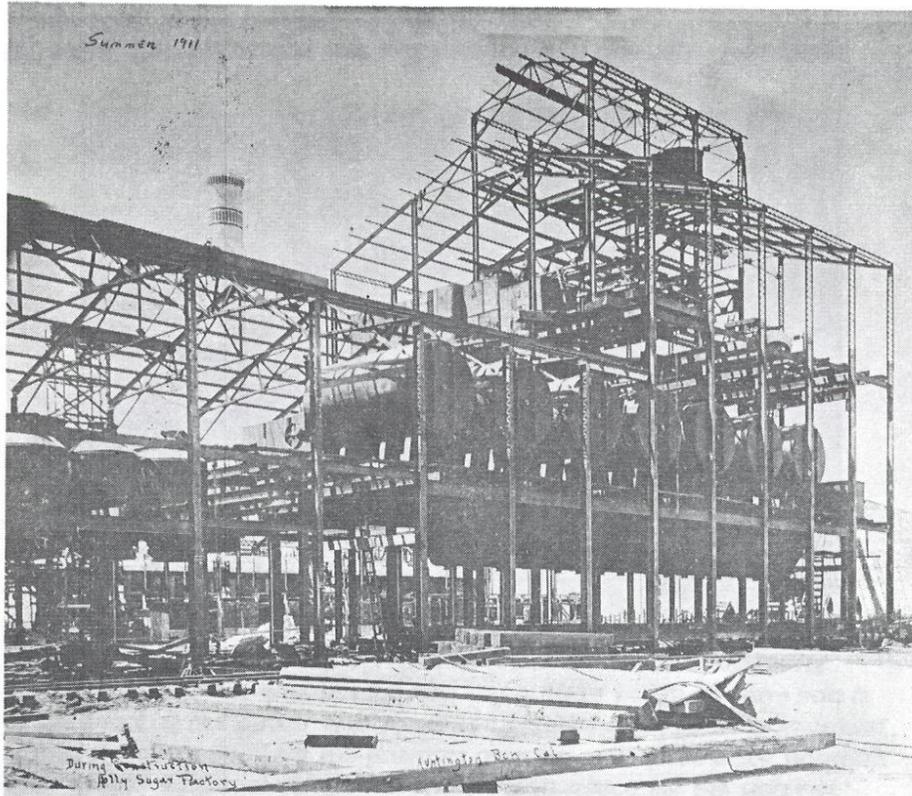


This photo shows how the area northwest of the pier looked in 1921. At the far left is the open air saltwater plunge, in the middle are the band stage and concessions and at the far right is the pier pavillion.



In June of 1914, the new concrete pier was dedicated. At 1,350 feet in length, the structure was known as the longest, highest and only solid concrete pleasure pier in the United States. Through the years, the pier has been a focal point for numerous, prestigious surfing events and remains today a Huntington Beach Landmark.

In an extremely heavy storm in September 1939, a 300 foot section of the end of the pier was washed away. By August 1940, repairs were completed bringing the pier's length to its present 1822 feet.



Constructed in 1911, the Holly Sugar Factory, shown above, provided many jobs in the city.

Sites for the town's first schools were sold to the Pacific City School District by the Huntington Beach Company in 1905. Later that year, the district changed its name to the Huntington Beach School District. Pictured at the top right, is the first grammar school at 5th and Orange completed in 1909. The location was used in later years for the construction of the new city hall.

Shown at the right, is Union High School, the city's first high school completed in 1909 and located at Union and Main.





The view is looking east on Ocean Avenue (now Pacific Coast Highway) toward the intersection of Main Street. The "Red Car" is seen at the Huntington Beach depot with the Pier Pavillion (later to become the Pier Restaurant) to the far right. The year is between 1904 & 1909.

In 1902, Stanton sold the West Coast Land and Water Company holdings to the Vail-Gates Group of Los Angeles. They changed the name from Pacific City to Huntington Beach and formed the Huntington Beach Company. The name change was a gesture of good will towards Henry E. Huntington who had become interested in the City. H. E. Huntington, who owned the Pacific Electric Railroad and held a substantial amount of stock in the Southern Pacific Lines, bought an interest in the Huntington Beach Company. He extended his "red car" line from Long Beach to the City and electrified the old Southern Pacific Line to Newport Beach. H. E. Huntington was the nephew of Collins Huntington, a partner in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Huntington Beach Company continued to expand its real estate holdings and was soon the principal land owner in the area. The Huntington Beach Company constructed many of the first public improvements.

In 1903 a wooden pier, approximately 1,000 feet long, was constructed by the Huntington Beach Company at the end of Main Street. Also, on the bluff, a two story hotel, the Huntington Inn was erected. The Inn came to be known as one of the finest hotels on the seashore.

The first electric passenger train rolled into Huntington Beach on July 4, 1904. An extensive advertising campaign drew attention to Huntington Beach and soon real estate began to sell and building activity developed. More land was added to the original townsite. Eventually, a branch rail line was constructed running three miles inland to service three sugar beet mills, which opened in 1911, and other industries like the broom factory.

The City of Huntington Beach was incorporated in 1909 and encompassed an original townsite of 3.57 square miles. The population was 915 of which 542 were registered voters. The first Mayor was Ed Manning whose descendants still reside in the City. The first high school was constructed the same year at a cost of \$35,000. In 1906, the streets in the downtown area were graded and oiled and sidewalks and curbs were added. Later, in 1912, the pier was heavily damaged in a severe storm. Coincidentally, the City Council, during 1912, had been contemplating the construction of a new pier. A \$70,000 pier construction bond was approved by popular vote in 1912. The new 1,350 foot long replacement pier was dedicated in June of 1914, and had the distinction of being the longest, highest and only solid concrete pleasure pier in the United States.

By 1915, the downtown business district had developed. Many new, two story structures had been built and the area around the pier began to take on a more recreational atmosphere. The open air salt water "plunge" had been built in 1911 west of the pier and featured both heated and non-heated sections. Other concessions were added to the pier area to service the tourist trade. Eventually, a roof was added to the plunge structure which remained standing until 1962. A community band held concerts on the stage which was right on the beach between the pier and the plunge. Through the years improvements around the pier were built by the Huntington Beach Company and later dedicated to the City. Also, as the City grew, many of the major improvements and buildings such as the new city hall, streets, sewers and fire equipment were funded through municipal bond issues.

From 1910 to 1920 the City, in general, made slow progress. Just prior to 1920, the Encyclopedia Britannica Company came looking for the cheapest possible land to subdivide and give away as bonus lots to purchasers of sets of student reference encyclopedias. They negotiated a deal with the Huntington Beach Company for land located inland on hillsides and in ravines, and gave away lots which were, for the most part, worthless.

## HUNTINGTON BEACH

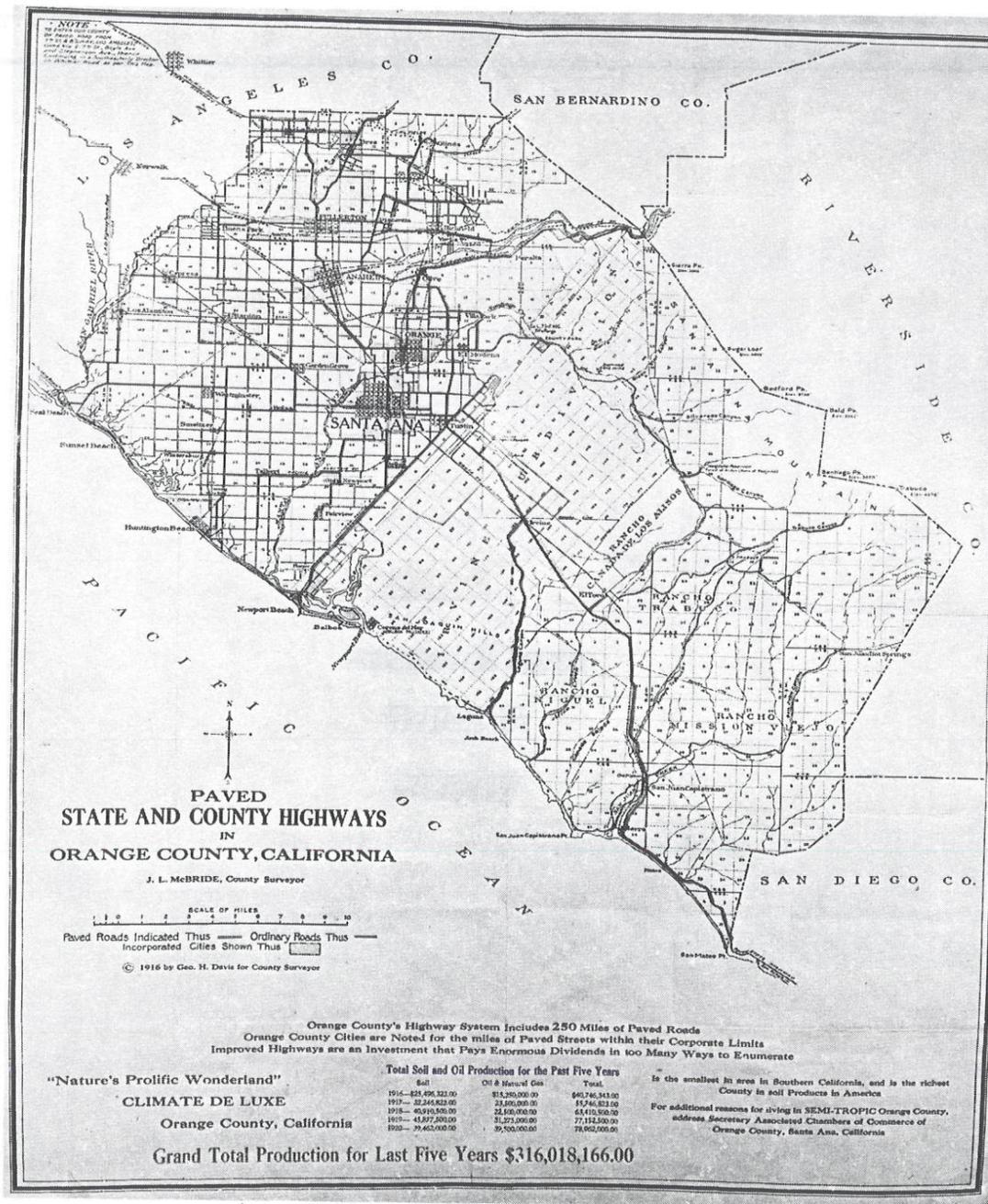
### THE HISTORY

Huntington Beach is situated on a portion of the vast Spanish Land Grant known as Las Bolsas (The Pockets of Bays). Las Bolsas, which covered 21 square miles, was granted to Manuel Perez Nietos in the 1790's by Mexican Governor Jose Figueroa. Las Bolsas covered the area from which the cities of Huntington Beach, Garden Grove, Westminster and Fountain Valley have arisen. In 1834, the grant was divided among Nieto's heirs. It was at this time that the six square mile rancho to the northwest, Bolsa Chica (Little Pocket), was created. The early settlers used the broad, savannah areas primarily for the grazing of livestock. In the early 1850's, the Las Bolsas came under the ownership of Don Abel Stearns, a native of Massachusetts, who became the largest owner of land and cattle in Southern California. Later his successor, the Stearns Rancho Trust, controlled the land. Through the years, the area gradually changed to agricultural uses.

A five mile stretch of beach along the Las Bolsas became known as Shell Beach, due to the numerous bean clams dotting the sand with color. Midway along the beach, the backland swelled into a low mesa. It was on this mesa that the original townsite was created. In the 1880's, Colonel Robert Northam purchased the mesa from the Stearns Rancho Company, of which he was manager. The swamp lands surrounding the mesa became known as "Gospel Swamp", because they were used by the early ministers to preach the gospel. Although no regular church existed, residents could find a continuous series of revival meetings in "Gospel Swamp". The swamp surrounded the mesa most of the year making shell beach almost inaccessible. At that time, there were no railroads, bridges or roads to the beach from any direction. Eventually, a large auditorium was built for revivals and conventions. Camp grounds with rows of tents surrounded the "Tabernacle" and this area of town became known as tent city.

Known as Shell Beach until 1901, the small coastal community became Pacific City when Philip Stanton formed a local real estate syndicate and bought 1,500 acres of Rancho Las Bolsas from Colonel Northam for \$100,000. The syndicate organized the West Coast Land and Water Company, which was the forerunner of the Huntington Beach Company and, on high ground above Shell Beach, laid out streets and lots in a forty acre tract surrounding the area of the present Main Street. Stanton's plan was to create a west coast resort rivaling New Jersey's Atlantic City. However, his dream to rival Atlantic City was not shared by many others in his day.

William Taylor Newland was another member of the West Coast Land and Water Company. He settled here with his family in 1897. They built their home in an area east of the townsite and farmed crops of celery, sugar beets, lima beans, chili peppers and barley. As the years progressed, William Newland became a successful city businessman starting the first bank and newspaper in the City. He served on the Highway Commission for twelve years which fought for and finally won state approval to extend Pacific Coast Highway from Long Beach to Dana Point. Mrs. Newland was very active in the community, especially within the school system. She was also a charter member of the Women's Club, and in 1939 was named "Woman of the Year" in recognition of her lengthy service to the community. The Newland house has been completely restored through the efforts of the City and the Huntington Beach Historical Society, and has become a noted landmark in the City.



Map of Orange County as it looked in 1920. The Las Bolsas Grants was located in the area southwest of Santa Ana. The county was described as "the smallest in area in Southern California and the richest in soil products in America." It was further noted for it's "sub-tropic weather and miles of paved streets within corporate city limits."





1905 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
(714) 536-2514

### THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The ocean extended over most of the western county region until quite recently. During the ice ages, the sea level dropped so that terrestrial life spread onto river deltas, covered by the ocean today. It was during the inter-glacial periods that the ocean extended as far inland as Santa Fe Springs and Buena Park.

The largest river in southern California, the Santa Ana River, is an antecedent river that flows from the San Bernardino Mountains through Santa Ana Canyon into the ocean. It has changed its channel across Orange County several times and has cut the embayment in Newport Beach. Fountain Valley, its present course, between Costa Mesa and the Huntington Beach anticline and Bolsa Chica marsh between the anticline and Seal Beach are the other river channels.

In the 1860's the river produced a "hundred-year-flood" that carried the sand from inland down to form the sand spit upon which Newport and Balboa are built. More recently in 1938 a large flood carried sand across Garden Grove and Westminster, destroying extensive farmlands. In order to use the farmlands again, a huge plow with discs over ten feet high was constructed. Tractors, used to build the Panama Canal, were imported to pull the plow across the fields and disc in the sand.

The delta of the Santa Ana River must have been a large swamp during the Pleistocene, especially in the last 10,000 years, as thick peat deposits underlie the entire area. Fossils of plant stems and seed pods as well as imperial mammoths, giant ground sloths, horses, bison, and camels have been found in the black carbonized peaty matter.

Peat in Orange County was rarely used a fuel (it stinks when it is burned). During the last century, Chinese immigrants living in the county unsuccessfully attempted to convert the swampy bogs into rice paddies. Around the turn of the century, traveling revival tent shows were set up on the boggy land (no one wanted them anywhere else) and this area became known as "Gospel Swamp".

By the second decade the bogs were drained (the area still can only stay above water by keeping pumps running all the time in canals that cross the school district). Celery and sugar beets were the primary crops with lima beans favoring the sandier soil near Costa Mesa. Horses, working in the fields, were shod with large flat wooden "peat shoes" to prevent them from sinking into the spongy peat. The peat caused further problems

BRIEF HISTORY  
OF  
OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

-- by Richard Pariseau

The Ocean View School District, founded in 1874, is one of the oldest districts in Orange County. The district is even older than the city of Huntington Beach, whose residents it primarily serves. As the city grew, the name "Gaspel Swamp" was altered to Shell Beach, then to Pacific City, and in 1904 it was again changed to Huntington Beach in honor of the owner of the Pacific Electric Railroad, Henry E. Huntington.

Huntington Beach was sparsely settled in the 1870's. The area was hardly a desirable place to live, with peat springs everywhere and always the possibility of the Santa Ana River flooding everything except the "Mesa" which rose above the fury of the water.

The first Ocean View class was believed to be held in a home east of the Huntington Beach ranch house. The house stood at approximately 7802 Garfield between Huntington and Florida Streets.

The early years of the first school were difficult ones. Even though Ocean View had a high number of census children, many lived miles away. Often the trails to school were inaccessible because of water and mud. Hardships were abundant and strong boys and girls were needed to help with chores. The work was never ending.

During 1875-1876 school year the district census grew to 88 with enrollment of 60 and average daily attendance of 40.

Migration from the mesa began in the late 1870's. Many residents were squatters and were forced to move by the legal owner, Abel Stearns. In 1880 the ADA dropped to just five and the school doors closed. The doors were not closed for long because the next year children were beating down the tullies on their way to class.

During this time the Great Bolsa Ditch was completed and draining much of the land in the vicinity of Smeltzer (Edinger) and many of the mesa squatters were homesteading the rich peat land. The residents probably found the walk to Ocean View School on the mesa a burden for their children.

In 1886 Israel Brush donated three acres of land on the southeast corner of Smeltzer and Beach Boulevard (where new construction is now underway) to be used for the construction of the new school. The school was a beautiful sight with wood frame construction, plastered interior walls and ceilings. It was painted a very bright color, believed to be yellow with orange trim. The school consisted of one large classroom. There was a boys' entrance and a girls' entrance with each having its own anteroom (cloakroom). Between the anterooms was the library with the belfry above and a rope hanging down. The rope was used to ring the bell every day to call the students to class at nine o'clock. The bell was sent from England for the purchase price of \$45 and now is mounted in front of the Ocean View School District office on Beach Boulevard.

The teacher's desk and chair were on a raised platform on the same level as the library. When sitting at the teacher's desk, one could see all sections of the room.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERATING STATION

Southern California Edison Company's Huntington Beach Generating Station is located on a 53 acre site at Huntington Beach, California. The plant was built by the Bechtel Corporation, took five years to complete, and cost \$125,000,000. The rapid growth of Orange County, the availability of large quantities of sea water for cooling, and access to transmission lines were factors in determining the location of the plant.

Huntington Beach is the sixth addition to Edison's Steam Generating Stations. Other steam stations are located at Long Beach, Redondo Beach, Etiwanda, El Segundo, Los Alamitos, Oxnard, Ormond Beach and Mojave. From its four turbine-generator units and gas-turbine peaking unit, it can produce 990,000 Kilowatts or roughly 9% of the Company's total generating capacity including Big Creek and Hoover Dam hydro-electric plants. Huntington Beach produces enough electricity to serve a city of 1,500,000 population.

Basically, Huntington Beach's operation is similar to that of other steam-electric generating stations: water is heated to steam in boilers; the steam, under high pressure, spins the turbo-generators, producing electricity which is sent out to homes, farms and industry in Edison territory. Looking at this process in a little more detail, production begins with the boilers. There are four of them, each over 100 feet high and capable of producing 1,560,000 pounds of steam per hour. Inside these boilers are thousands of feet of tubing in which water is converted to steam by heat in excess of 2500°F. The live steam is directed against the blades of the turbine at high pressure, turning the generator which produces electricity at 13,800 volts. This energy is "stepped up" to 220,000 volts and transmitted to Ellis and Barre Substations for distributing into the Edison system.

Brain and nerve center for each pair of units is the central Control Room, where the station operation and output is controlled. Television screens on the control board give operators an actual picture of flames and water level in the boilers, transmitted by cameras in the boiler walls.

Two water cycles are provided to operate the station. The first, fresh water, is filtered, and demineralized before being converted to steam which spins the turbines. After being used to produce electricity, the steam goes to condensers, is cooled back into water, then pumped to the boilers to begin the entire process again. Water for the second cycle - cooling steam back into water - comes from the Pacific Ocean through a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, 14 foot pipe to the plant. The eight cooling water pumps each have a capacity of 44,000 gallons per minute. After condensing the steam, the cooling water is returned into the ocean.

The gas turbine peaking unit utilizes 8 aircraft-type jet engines exhausting into four expander turbines. The unit is capable of reaching full generating capability of 120 MW within three minutes after start.

This entire project was built by private business, undertaking all the risks and doing the job at no cost to the taxpayers anywhere. Edison's total Orange County taxes amount to \$12.9 million (87-88) annually. Of this amount, 2.2 million dollars goes to the Huntington Beach schools.

\$3,261,150 was paid to Orange County in property taxes for Southern California Edison properties within the City of Huntington Beach for 86-87. Of this amount \$2,254,561 was from the Huntington Beach generating station alone.

Years rolled by. Grant deeds to those twenty-five foot town lots in Huntington Beach were buried in the bottoms of old trunks in musty New England garrets. Owners went to Europe in riches, or to the poorhouse in rags - while the encyclopedias rested on library shelves or went to the secondhand book-sellers.

Then oil came to Huntington Beach—great gobs of rich black gold. The clatter of rising derricks and the clank of rotary drills was music to the ears of promoters. The oil boom smacked into the middle of the town lot—the encyclopedia town lot section—and splattered all over the globe trying to find owners to whom it might present wealth beyond any New Englander's dreams.

Garrets were turned upside down in frantic search for deeds. Attorneys were enriched, and enlightened, by journeys to the far corners of the land and even to Europe seeking heirs or legatees to whom New England estates had been left, including somewhere in their list of assets some obscure mention of a town lot at Huntington Beach. Courts were besieged to clear titles to which there either was no claimant or too many.

The case of Ezra Hapfield and his descendants is illustrative. Ezra bought an encyclopedia for his daughter Hattie, who was attending a girls' finishing school, and when the deed came he was so busy keeping the ploughshare out of the rocks on the old farm that he tossed the deed into the family secretary, from whence at some later date it was transferred to an old horse-hair-covered trunk, and promptly forgotten.

Hattie married, bore a son, and upon the death of her husband Donald Corwin Baker, returned to her father's roof with the boy, Donald Corwin Baker, Jr. Life on the farm went on.

Suddenly came the letter from a California firm of attorneys, making guarded inquiries as to a certain Huntington Beach town lot, giving range, block and number. Ezra had to scratch his head a bit to even remember any transaction by which he had acquired a lot. But he and Hattie finally dug the deed out of the horse-hair trunk.

Even then they were only mildly curious—the letter mentioned nothing about oil and they had not heard of the boom. Correspondence ensued. An offer was made for the lot—something over three hundred dollars. This offer startled the father and daughter. "Why that's more than I paid for the blamed encyclopedia and all," said Ezra to his daughter.

The upshot of it all was that they paid up the back taxes, redeemed the property, sold the cow and the ducks and the chickens, and bought tickets for California. If that lot was worth three hundred dollars to some attorney's client, it might be worth a lot more, and they wanted to know about it.

It was indeed worth more, for it was located over the heart of the vast subterranean oil reservoir.

A handsome bungalow on a slope overlooking the sea, with orange trees in the back yard and winter-blooming roses on the porch, housed Ezra and Hattie and the grandson. They bought it with their first oil royalties. And the oil royalties kept coming in.

Jack Crawford, et al, next drilled and completed the first Jones sand producer in this area. The well, "Huntington" No. 5 was drilled in the vicinity of First and Olive Streets and started flowing January 1, 1955, at an initial rate of 736 barrels per day of 20.8 gravity oil. Now the boom was on in earnest!

In rapid succession, 216 wells were drilled, of which only 6 were non-productive. However, because of the close spacing and rapid withdrawal of the oil and gas, production per well declined from approximately 500 barrels per day to 15 barrels per day in less than a year.

- (1) Hazenbush and Allen, "Huntington Beach Oil Field, History, California Oil Fields," Vol. 44, No. 1 (1958)
- (2) Ibid
- (3) Murray-Aaron, Eugene "Tideland Pools of Huntington Beach" Division of Oil and Gas "Summary of Operations—California Oil Fields," Vol. 33, No. 1 (1947)
- (4) Ibid
- (5) Frame, Ralph G., "California Offshore Petroleum Development, California Oil Fields," Vol. 46, No. 2 (1960)
- (6) A.L. Hunter, W.C. Bradford and D.R. Allen—"Huntington Beach Oil Field, Southeast Extension of Townlot Area California Oil Fields," Vol. 41, No. 1 (1955)

**Article Excerpted From City of Huntington Beach  
Historical Notes - September 1975**

**Compiled by Connie Bauer  
Edited by William G. Reed**

### Tidelands

The offshore pools were discovered in May 1930, when the Superior Oil Company redrilled "Babbit" No. 1 from the Townlot area to an interval of between 3,838 and 4,313 feet producing 345 barrels of 26 gravity oil per day. The reported production had increased to 1,450 barrels per day in August of the same year. Although this was considered unusual production from the Townlot area, it wasn't determined until later that the well was bottomed in what was to be known later as the Tideland pool.

This well, located on 21st Street between Walnut Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway, is generally considered to be the discovery well of the offshore pool.<sup>3</sup> This fact, however, was not generally known until Wilshire Oil Company completed "H.B." No. 15, on Pacific Coast Highway between 18th and 19th Streets, in July 1933, flowing at the daily rate of approximately 4,800 barrels of 26 gravity oil. The horizontal drift of this well as eventually determined to be in excess of 1,400 feet offshore from the Pacific Coast Highway.<sup>4</sup>

Other operators, including McVicar and Rood, developers of the "whipstock" (a tool used for directional drilling), soon began directing wells offshore and completing them in the tideland pool.

This led to a temporary injunction being filed in September 1933, by the State of California against one operator which carried an order that a directional survey be made of the well. This survey proved beyond question that the well was bottomed under State tidelands and brought about sliding scale royalty agreements between the State Lands Commission and the Operators producing from the State tidelands.

In March 1938, the Legislature passed the State Lands Act and a new and far more orderly stage of offshore development followed. The first successful bidder on a tideland parcel offered by the newly created State Lands Commission was Southwest Exploration Company, now Signal Companies, Inc.

Their lease lies between the southerly prolongation of 23rd Street (Goldenwest) on the Southeast to a parallel line about one and one-quarter miles at the northwest and extends oceanward for one mile beyond the ordinary highwater mark. Orderly development began in 1938 with from 6 to 50 wells being drilled each year.

There was an average of 452 producing wells in 1967 averaging approximately 60 barrels of oil per day for each well. The Main zone is the principal producing interval, producing nearly three times as much oil as the Jones sand from slightly over twice the number of producing wells.<sup>5</sup>

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH OIL FIELDS

Compiled by Herbert A. Day  
Former Oil Field Superintendent

### Discovery Well and Goldenwest Garfield Area

The Huntington Beach Oil Field is located in Orange County approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Long Beach along the Pacific Coast Highway. It is the fourth largest California field in cumulative production having produced 792,713,294 barrels of oil as of December 31, 1967. In the year 1967 the production totaled 20,713,294 barrels of oil.

A brief history encompassing the time of the discovery well through the latest important discovery within the field follows shortly hereafter.

Gratitude is in order to the State of California, Division of Oil and Gas, and to local operators and their employees who took part in the development of the Huntington Beach Oil Field for their invaluable information.

A series of discoveries, often in widely separated areas, led to the present day Huntington Beach Oil Field. Each discovery has been followed by a flurry in drilling activity, most of which, has little to no controls. According to George Hazenbush and Dennis Allen<sup>1</sup> oil was first discovered on May 24, 1920, when Standard Oil Company of California completed well "Huntington A" No. 1 at a depth of 2,199 feet, producing 45 barrels per day of 14 gravity oil.

The same well was subsequently deepened to 2,381 feet and produced 70 barrels of oil per day after deepening. However, and according to the same authors, it caused little excitement because of the low rate of production.

In November of the same year, Standard Oil Company of California drilled what is generally considered the Huntington Beach discovery well. This "Bolsa Chica" No. 1 located near Reservoir Hill, was completed at a depth of 3,455 feet, producing 1,300 barrels of 21 gravity oil per day. "Ashton" No. 1 was located approximately one-half mile northeast of "Bolsa Chica" No. 1.

A flurry of drilling followed, which extended into the Goldenwest and Garfield area.

This was the first of the closely spaced wells in the Huntington Beach Field. After the drilling of 100 wells by various companies, and a total production of 119,000 barrels per day, drilling activity declined in this area by December 1923.

## OIL BOOM RECALLED

By Oscar L. Stricklin  
(Since Deceased)

### PIONEER WRITES OF HUNTINGTON ERA

Oscar L. Stricklin, now 85, (12/15/71) knows his memory of Huntington Beach's wild and wooly oil boom years will soon fade away with age.

Rich with images of history--from listening to one of the first crystal radios and uncovering a mass grave--it has all been preserved for future generations in his own autobiography.

Though his story is only that of an average man who worked hard all his life as oil rig builder, bean farmer and horse rancher, the first 100 copies have already been grabbed up.

On the advice of his many relatives, Stricklin dictated the 52-page volume to Barbara, his grandson's wife during 1970. The leatherette-bound book, complete with old photographs, became a fitting present for the 63rd anniversary of Stricklin and his wife, Sadie, earlier this September.

When the couple moved to California from the Midwest in 1920, only three oil wells existed in Huntington Beach. Stricklin helped build the fourth.

"There wasn't anything here then. Huntington Beach was just a small place without paved streets or lights," he noted in his book. "Their streets were just oil roads--they'd grade up a street and put oil on it."

At the time the city had only one policeman, Jack Tinsley, who also acted as fire chief and city inspector. If anyone wanted to get anything done, Tinsley was the man to ask.

Even though the roads were rough, Stricklin and his wife braved potholes and ruts to go to Long Beach where they listened to one of the first radios.

"They were advertising the radio down at the Pike. There was a long table where they had four crystal sets and you could listen to the radio for five or 10 minutes for a quarter" he remembered.

"We also had one of the first televisions. It had a little 10-inch screen and people came from all around our house to see that television," added Stricklin, who now lives at 17292 Golden West St.

During the oil boom of the mid-20's Stricklin continued his employment as rig builder for Standard Oil, only at an accelerated pace.

"People came pouring in here like there was a gold rush. We really got busy then. We used to work in the oil fields every day. We didn't know what a day off or a vacation was," he wrote.

One of his major projects was the construction of a half-mile long concrete sea wall along the bluffs area. It still exists today, protecting pumping equipment from erosion by water.

satisfies us that the City of Huntington Beach is without such title as would authorize its execution thereof. We have felt that the representations made as to the City's readiness to enter into such lease are most inaccurate. The Standard Oil Company well challenge and resist the validity of any such lease as a violation of its property rights."

On November 2, 1932, Mayor Conrad demanded that Governor Rolph undertake an investigation concerning the activities of a major oil corporation alleged to be draining millions of dollars in oil and gas from beneath the tidelands of Huntington Beach. He advised the Governor that there were 167,000 earnest citizens of California who sponsored the initiative, now labeled Proposition #11.

Mayor Conrad received an answer within a week from Governor Rolph. His telegram read, "My dear Mayor: Your wire received: Kindest regards: James Rolph, Governor".

On November 10, 1932, while the rest of the nation was turning out at the polls to elect a new president, the citizens of the state and particularly the citizens of Huntington Beach turned out to vote on the controversial Proposition #11. The Proposition carried in the city by a vote of 1258-528, but it lost in the state by 1,079,451 to 709,438. It seems apparent by the obvious voting behavior that what the local residents felt was their inalienable right was not felt by the voters in the state.

The defeat of Proposition #11 at the polls resulted in the attempt by many independent operators to slant drill from privately owned property, under the Standard Oil Company wells, and out into the tidelands. When Standard Oil and the State of California accused one of these operators, the Termo Company, of slant drilling into the tideland pools, it resulted in a cross complaint filed by the City of Huntington Beach against the State and Standard Oil. George W. Bush, special counsel for the City, revealed a clause in the State Tideland Leasing Act denying the State the right to participate in drilling operations in tidelands fronting incorporated cities. Despite the fact that much of the evidence was in favor of the Termo Company, they decided to settle litigation with the State. For over seven years Standard Oil had been drilling into the tidelands. At no time during this period did state officials complain, or had they ever taken any action to secure a royalty from them. But, after several independent operators succeeded in bringing in good wells, these same officials awakened to the fact that oil was being drained from the tidelands and brought suit against various independent operators. By this method, the independents were forced to enter a compromise royalty agreement with the State.

The City of Huntington Beach did not take an active part in these suits until it was definitely established that the state officials intended to force down the throats of the independent operators a schedule of royalties that practically amounted to confiscation of their property. The schedule of royalties submitted by state officials at the time the city filed its cross complaints ran from 5% on a fifty barrel well to 66% on a 3000 barrel well. Some operators have land owners royalties as high as 35%. On a 3000 barrel well, if allowed to produce, it would have been necessary for the operator to pay out royalties to the landowner and the state amounting to 101% of the oil, or 1% more than his well produced.

Since the City's intervention into the suit, the state officials reduced the royalty schedule to a more reasonable 19% on a 1000 barrel well. In filing the cross complaints the City Council had three points in mind:

- (1) Aiding the operators in obtaining an equitable adjustment of their difficulty with the state officials.
- (2) In rebuttal to a published order by the State Finance Director Vandegrift that no wells be drilled after November 1934, they requested that further drilling be permitted in order to provide employment for hundreds of workers and to permit the property owners to get a reasonable return from their land.
- (3) That by increased oil production the City would benefit by reason of the mineral tax on oil produced.

tion and fishery, and may not be alienated from the city to any private individual, firm or corporation; except that the City may grant a franchise or a lease not to exceed thirty years for the express purposes of promoting commerce, navigation and fishery.

- (b) the tidelands and submerged lands shall be improved without cost to the state, and any harbors constructed thereon shall remain a public harbor for all purposes of commerce and navigation.
- (c) that if a franchise, permit or lease is granted by the city, 50% of the income derived therefrom shall be paid promptly by the city into the state treasury.

The Standard Oil Company protested against the acquisition by the City of Huntington Beach of the tidelands adjoining their valuable holdings. James S. Lawshe, manager of the Huntington Beach Company, of which Standard Oil is the holding company, called attention to the fact that they paid 40% of the taxes of Huntington Beach. The loss of drilling the valuable tidelands would be a serious loss to the City, Standard Oil, and the Huntington Beach Company.

The Huntington Beach News retaliated by saying the profit which Standard Oil stood to lose was not rightfully theirs to begin with, and the 40% taxes paid to the city is only small compensation for the damage wrought to what nature intended should be one of the most beautiful spots on the shores of the Pacific.

The Hearst press came to the defense of Standard Oil by depicting through editorials and cartoons the despoilation of the beaches if off-shore drilling were allowed. According to the Huntington Beach News, Standard Oil's opposition was not based on any desire to preserve the beauty of the beaches, but to prevent any possibility of encroachment by tideland drilling upon their own oil revenue.

On April 7, 1931, the Assembly voted 66-0 to grant Huntington Beach its tidelands rights. On May 12, 1931, the State Senate voted 29-0 to sustain the decision of the Assembly. For all intents and purposes, it appeared a certainty that the bill would become a reality. All that was necessary was the signature of the Governor to effectuate the bill.

A lobbyist for the Standard Oil Company made the threat, following the passage of the tideland grant to Huntington Beach, that he would see to it that Governor Rolph vetoed the bill. It seemed appararent that if Governor Rolph did veto the bill, after unanimous approval by the state legislature, he would be acting solely in the interest of the Standard Oil Company and for the protection of their financial interests.

But, if he signed the bill, he would be placing responsibility and control of tidelands leasing solely up to the people of Huntington Beach. The City would then do as it pleased. If it elected to lease the tidelands, the bill provided that one half of any royalty derived should go to the state, and the other one half to the City. In any event the City would own its tidelands and have jurisdiction and control that had been denied it for the past twenty years.

Governor Rolph had until June 19, 1931, in which to sign the bill. Failure to do so in the time prescribed would result in a "pocket veto." The bill would be killed and could not be resurrected for two years.

As the deadline drew near, there was much speculation in political circles all over the state concerning the astonishing hold the Standard Oil Company had in persuading the Governor to even delay signing a measure passed by an overwhelming majority in the legislature. Governor Rolph found himself between two lines of fire on the question of the tidelands bill. Phil Stanton, his Orange County advisor, had urged him to weigh with due consideration the wishes of Orange County friends of the measure.

The powerful Standard Oil Company on the other hand had brought all the pressure at their

OIL HISTORIES

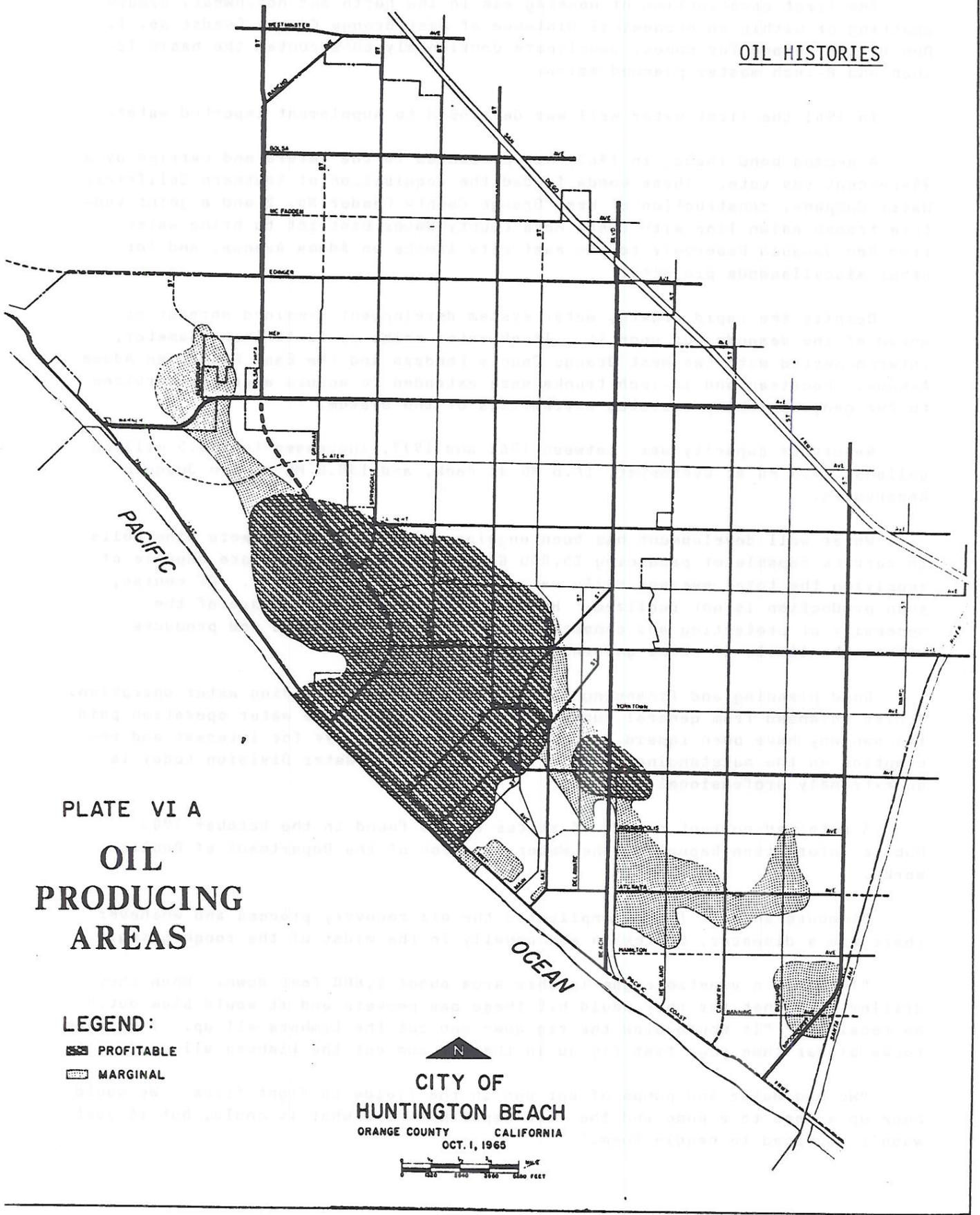


PLATE VI A  
OIL  
PRODUCING  
AREAS

- LEGEND:
- PROFITABLE
  - MARGINAL

CITY OF  
HUNTINGTON BEACH  
ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
OCT. 1, 1965



### DECADE OF DECISION 1950 - 1959

The minds of the thinking people dwelled on the ever growing development to the north in Los Angeles County. Plans were devised to deal with the inevitable invasion of homes and businesses in the County of Orange; government and non-governmental agencies prepared to meet the onslaught.

Southern California Edison Company proceeded to double generation at the Huntington Beach steam generating plant and planned additional units. New gas transmission mains bringing more Texas natural gas, crossed the county. The County Flood Control District and Road Department, and the State Division of Highways, within their financial limits, commenced to expedite the execution of planned projects.

On January 11, 1951 Orange County Municipal Water District (now Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)) was formed. It was created as the agency to obtain water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to serve most of the developable lands in Orange County. Not included were the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana, all original members of MWD, and Coastal Municipal Water District which annexed to MWD in 1942. MWDOC was to act as the wholesaler of water to cities and agencies purveying to users. It had no transmission system and no storage and would provide none of these.

The West Orange County Water Board (WOCWB) was established November 23, 1953 with the City of Huntington Beach one of its members. WOCWB was the agency to execute the connection to MWD feeders and be the contracting agent to build the transmission mains serving its members.

Huntington Beach leaders commenced their planning, ordered feasibility studies and eventually plans and construction documents. Concurrently they launched a three-pronged effort to ensure the future of their little city by the sea. First was the promotion of a bond issue to fund delivery of MWD water within the city. This was accomplished in 1955 when a bond issue ballot measure was approved by 78 percent of the electorate. The two other prongs were annexation and formation of Sanitation Districts. By 1959 the city had expanded from its original four to more than 22 square miles and had committed itself to constructing trunk sewers to serve the annexed areas. And so, 1959 found Huntington Beach a city of substantial size with primary utilities in place, and a mature and resolute governing body and the nucleus of a professional staff. Master plans were delineated and ordinances were enacted setting forth the requirements of development. Homes, commerce and industry were welcome in Huntington Beach if they could pay their way; there would be no city general tax subvention for projects.

### THE YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT 1960 - 1984

Major residential development commenced in 1960 and continues to occur today. The housing tracts were followed by commercial development to provide services to the new residents. As the city grew in population commercial use became more substantial, industry gradually moved in to serve the market, banks sprang up. Schools met the needs of the growth. As land became dearer, luxury homes were built and intensive residential land use resulted in extensive condominium construction. From a 1960 population of 11,500 to the 180,000 of 1984 the city has never caused a slow down in development by its inability to have water available.

## EIGHTY YEARS' PROGRESS

### WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

1904 - 1984

By: James Wheeler - Public Works Director 1958-1973  
City of Huntington Beach

#### INTRODUCTION

This paper is divided into parts which separate the eras of the systematic delivery of water to residents and businesses in the City of Huntington Beach. These are clearly defined periods of time except for the years 1964-67 during which private operations were incorporated into the municipal water system. From time to time some note will be made of the population and area changes that occurred over the years and their relationship to the development of the City system. Recognition must be given to those whose foresight and concern for the need to develop a municipal system provided the initial philosophy and provided the funding to begin essential works prior to the need for their being put into service. This will be done without mention of names for the sake of simplicity and in fear of not remembering someone who played an important role.

#### PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT 1904 - 1967

At some time after acquiring the old seashore lands called Pacific City from the investor landowners the site was renamed Huntington Beach by the new owners, the Huntington Beach Company, in the spring of 1904. The same year on July 4th the first electric car arrived from Los Angeles. Upon acquisition the Huntington Beach Company made public improvements which included a water system. For lack of a specific date of commencement of service it can be surmised that it was one of the first constructed elements of the original infrastructure.

The first State of California Railroad Commission decision on Huntington Beach, dated August 14, 1914, was approval of the water rates of the Huntington Beach Company. On December 1, 1915 the Commission issued rules and regulations for operation of the Huntington Beach Water Company. At this time the Huntington Beach Company had spun off the water business to its wholly-owned subsidiary, Huntington Beach Water Company, so that it could deal separately with the provisions of the Public Utility Act.

In 1925 Huntington Beach Water Company engaged a Los Angeles based engineering firm to review the viability of its operation. At the time 1,300 properties were being served and, in addition, water was being delivered to the oil field. These combined sources of revenue resulted in a profitable operation and the consultant recommended the development of a new source of water supply to the north of the City. Subsequently a well field and wooden tank storage was put in service, located on Golden West Street, north of Talbert Avenue.

A Los Angeles investor purchased Huntington Beach Water Company in 1925. In 1927 American States Public Service Company, a Chicago (Illinois) utilities holding company became interested and by the fall of 1929 the American States Water Service Company of California was formed to manage these California holdings. In the ensuing years this company suffered the troubles of the

By 1928, many of the Legionnaires had lost interest. They were replaced by volunteers from various utility companies and industries that would allow their employees to answer fire alarms without loss of pay. In fact, many employers would pick up the volunteers and bring them to the fire. Cooperation was 100 percent. Fire protection did not increase in the surrounding areas. Our Fire Department continued to serve rural areas and oil fields in County territory. If help was needed on an oil fire, the Signal Hill Fire Department provided assistance.

On March 10, 1933, the City suffered an earthquake which did considerable damage to the city. The fire station was damaged and it was necessary to move out and sleep in tents for a period of a month.

By 1937, larger facilities and more apparatus were needed. City Councilman Hendrickson was responsible for the purchase of a new pumper and a new fire station. The pumper was a 1,000 gallon per minute Seagrave with a 12 cylinder engine, four-wheel brakes and modern facilities on the pumper. Chief Sargent became acquainted with Fire Captain Glenn Griswold, of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, who was expert in oil fire fighting and invented and experimented with the use of several types of fog nozzles. Chief Sargent purchased the nozzles and our city became one of the first in the nation to use fog, especially on oil fires. In 1938, the Federal government Works Progress Administration provided material to build a new fire department headquarters. The volunteer firemen salvaged the old fire bell and mounted it on a concrete pedestal in front of headquarters. This larger building had three stalls in front and one stall to the side of the building. It provided offices, workshop, first aid room, dormitory, kitchen, an inside hose tower and an upstairs classroom and recreation room. The paid force now consisted of the Chief, seven men and fifteen volunteers.

The volunteers maintained a separate organization with funds collected from the Annual Firemen's Ball, used to provide membership fees. They took an active interest in the California State Firemen's Association and were effective in improved legislation for the fire service.

Chief Sargent retired on August 5, 1950, and Delbert G. Higgins a Volunteer Fireman since 1932 was appointed Fire Chief and Lifeguard Chief. The Council indicated it wished improvements and changes. At this time there were seven paid firemen and nine volunteer firemen. One of the first acts was to appoint an assistant Chief, William A. Reardon.

By 1962, many improvements had been made. We were growing so fast that it was necessary to build additional permanent facilities. The fire station designed by Jordan and Hensley of Costa Mesa was located at Heil and Springdale. The City was able to purchase the old Edison warehouse facility on 704 Lake Street and expended \$170,000 to renovate the building into a fire station, fire headquarters and police vehicle repair facility.

The City started a very rapid growth period. 1,400 new residents per month was not unusual. A temporary fire station was located at Garfield and Huntington. Two 1,250 gallon per minute pumpers with closed cabs were purchased. Equipment was assigned to the newly developed Huntington Harbour area. Two surplus navy amphibious ducks were obtained and converted for fire protection purposes and housed at the Heil Station at night and in the harbour parking lot during the day. A new station at Bushard Street, south of Yorktown, was built and put into operation to handle the expansion on the east side of town.

They petitioned the City Council for recognition, and approval was given on April 26, 1909. The first act was to seek funds to purchase necessary equipment. A firemen's ball was held to raise money. They requested the City Council purchase a large fire bell, a hose cart with 600 feet of tubed fire hose, a nozzle, hydrant wrench and installation of fire riser hydrants on the wooden fire mains in the alleys. The equipment was received and placed in service by late fall.

Two members of the City Council traveled to Los Angeles to evaluate the sound of several fire bells. The fire bell was mounted on a platform 20 feet above ground, southwest of Main and Walnut Streets. The bell was stationary with a movable clapper that was pulled back and forth with two ropes making a fast ding-dong sound in order to differentiate it from the church bells that were sounded by rocking the whole bell.

With the arrival of the equipment, there was need for a fire station and meeting place. A portion of the large horse and carriage stable on the northwest corner of Third and Orange Streets was rented for a fire station for \$8 per month. The livery stable later burned and the fire equipment was moved to the same location as the fire bell in the alley off Walnut Avenue.

Chief Philp resigned during the first year. Elected Fire Chiefs continued until 1921 and included Art Insley, a cement mason; Mr. H. T. Sundbye, a dry goods merchant; C. Y. Sorenson, Mr. J. C. Fountain, Gale Bergey, Walter Wade, and E. R. French. From 1921 to 1928 the Chief of Police served as Fire Chief: including Jack Tinsley, R. Choat, Vern Keller and Chief Stewart.

The firemen prepared rules and regulations in a handbook which included a map of the City showing the location of the fire hydrants. No thought was given to the purchase of a fire pumper as they believed the hose cart was sufficient. A large reservoir of 1,250,000 gallons of water located on the hill on Goldenwest Avenue provided 35 pounds pressure downtown. It was thought that was sufficient to handle the fire protection within the City as most of the houses in the early days were built apart, preventing exposure problems.

During the early years, most of the businessmen of the City were members of the Volunteer Fire Department and donated their services free of charge. They did ask the City Council to pay their poll tax, a \$1.00 tax allowing them to vote. The City Council, not having the money, turned them down. The men policed themselves well and members were dropped for failure to turn out for drills or fires. Normally a complement of 15 to 18 men served on the Volunteer Fire Department in those early days. The only pay they received was the sum of \$2.50 per call which was paid to the first person who arrived at the fire with the horse and wagon. Normal procedure was to hook the hose cart to the rear of a wagon, add additional equipment, and proceed directly to the fire. Horses were galloped at full speed and at times caused accidents. One accident was caused when the driver turned too sharply at the corner of Eighth Street and Olive, turning the hose cart over and breaking the wheel. In another accident the volunteer was riding on the reel of hose and upon turning the corner too fast, he fell off, striking his head, resulting in injuries from which he later died. Upon arriving at the fire, the hose cart was disconnected, the hose and nozzle pulled off and a reel of rope about 20 feet long was pulled out from the front tongue of the cart. Two men held on to the handle of the hose cart and 8 to 10 men pulled the rope. The hose cart was pulled directly in line across fields and vacant lots to the fire and the hydrant, to a maximum of about 600 feet from the fire. Many times the hose didn't quite reach the burning house and the water was used for taking care of the buildings next door. Successful results were rare due to the lapse time between ignition and first application of water. As volunteers arrived, they removed everything from the house or building and prided themselves on their ability to save everything without damaging furniture or possessions.

in-place process, and (2) employing Riedel's own steel trestle from which cranes would accomplish old pier demolition simultaneously with new pier construction. The total cost of the project, including the upcoming construction of five buildings on the pier, is approximately \$12.5 million.

The new pier replicates the historic architectural style of the original 1914 concrete pier, complete with arched bents. However, this pier is considerably stronger than the original version in order to withstand not only wave impacts and uplift but also earthquakes. Reinforcing steel is epoxy coated to protect against ocean salt corrosion. The steel in the original pier, exposed to the elements all these years, had virtually turned to dust. The 250 foot portion of the pier that was blown away in 1988 was 8 feet lower than the rest of the pier. The new end of the pier is 13 feet higher than its predecessor, far above the wave zone. It is 1,856 feet long, 20 feet longer than its predecessor.

Concept Marine Associates, Inc. of Marina del Rey, California, was hired to perform construction management on the project. Riedel kicked-off construction with erection of the trestle in October of 1990. This was followed by simultaneous demolition and pile driving. Some of the more difficult demolition and construction tasks took place that winter. A one month delay was experienced with the discovery and hazardous abatement of asbestos pipes under the old pier. A portion of the demolition was accomplished using the contractor's "Big Digger" floating crane. This operation proved somewhat difficult considering the winter swells that were encountered. Businessmen were concerned about delays during storms, but pile-driving continued on through the rains. The contractor's project manager, Gary Davis, said "You people down here don't know what rain is." During demolition, a sophisticated piece of equipment called a hydraulic shear was employed on the beach to "bite-off" old concrete pilings with little effort. It reminded one of a giant dinosaur, as it devoured the old pier. The weathered piles were so brittle that, when barely touched, they turned to "Rat Feathers", according to Davis. Riedel also used a custom-built hydraulic sled, named "Rosebud", that assures more accurate pile driving; and a conveyor system that delivered 131 foot-long, 24 inch diameter concrete piles out to the end of the trestle. Gordon Fulton, President of Concept Marine, noted "I've never worked on a project before where the pile driving went so smoothly. We haven't even had a Change Order involving pile driving."

### THE RESULTS

The team assembled to build the pier, including Riedel, Concept Marine, Moffatt and Nichol and the City staff worked well together to produce a near-perfect project full of cost-effective construction features. Change Orders amounted to only about 3% of the project costs, and no construction claims were filed. This is quite unusual for a complex marine project.

Funds contributed to the pier come from the City, the County of Orange, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the P.I.E.R. citizens group, and Anjo Japan. Anjo, our Sister City, conducted its own fund raiser and accumulated \$92,000. Also, a vigorous professional fund raising "Landmark" campaign seeking corporate donors is continuing to complete the funding for the pier and pier buildings. Thus far, \$2 million in private funds have been raised.

It has become quite apparent, through this process, that an ocean pier is a vital organ in the economic, cultural and historical life of a beach community. This landmark project is not only a passionate issue with the residents, but the downtown merchants consider the pier to be a critical component to their economic survival. This project has proved to be a catalyst between the residents, the business community and City officials. The "Pierfest" July weekend celebration, highlighted by the Saturday ribbon cutting which drew 300,000 people, was not merely a re-opening but more resembled a homecoming or a family reunion.

August, 1992

Robert Eichblatt, City Engineer

The Christmas Victorian Tour Season presents a glimpse of the Newland home as their many early day guests must have seen it. The parlor, lavishly decorated with live greens, features a large tree decked in hand made Victorian Christmas ornaments. The house glows softly by candle light on evening tours. Memorable tours of the past are also conducted in the daytime. A special attraction is always provided by the Society Jellymakers. Pomegranate jelly is made from the remaining old tree on the property which provides nearly 500 jars of bright red, tart jelly that is sold in the Country Store each Holiday Season.

House tours were conducted by its docents for almost 4000 visitors in 1986 and are available twice a month on a regular basis. Tours are also presented by appointment for groups of children and adults. A "must do" stop on the tour is a visit to the Country Store which features unusual gifts with a Turn of the Century flair. Future plans include special activities geared to the interests of young children so they may share in the history of the community.

The society cordially invites you to visit the Newland House and learn about our early city and the surrounding farming region. To join in the pleasure of being a House Docent, or help with other society activities such as the country fair or our new oral history program, please contact the Huntington Beach Historical Society at 962-5777 to discover what is going on in the continuing history of Huntington Beach.

HUNTINGTON BEACH  
NEWLAND HOUSE HISTORY  
By: Barbara Milkovich  
Huntington Beach Historical Society Archivist

Like so many of their fellow Midwesterners, William T. and Mary Newland were drawn from Illinois to Southern California during the "Boom of the Eighties." By the mid-1880's, regional boosters had created an alluring picture of Southern California and competition between the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Santa Fe had caused fares to drop dramatically. This meant that people of modest means could afford to migrate to the Los Angeles area. The Newlands first lived on a small farm at Compton, then moved to what became Orange County. There Newland raised grain (in 1899 40,000 acres of barley) on the great San Joaquin Ranch, property of the Irvine family.

Between 1897 and 1900 the Newlands purchased the mesa where their home now stands in addition to about 500 acres of rich peat land to the south and east in the area called "Gospel Swamp." When they arrived on the mesa, much of the peat land was submerged and it looked like one big lake with islands of tulle grass and willows. On investigation, Newland found that there was sufficient grade to drain the whole basin into the ocean, and with the help of neighboring owners, cut ditches and recovered the land for planting. Successful almost from the first with his vegetable crops, he eventually raised celery, lima beans, chili peppers and sugar beets, in particular, on the bottom land, and grain crops on the mesa. Mary Newland took over the operation of the ranch after her husband's death in 1933, and operated it herself, into the 1940's.

The Newland ranch was a self-contained unit with vegetable garden, berry bushes, orchard, cows, chickens, turkeys, goats and even pet peacocks in the house yard. Originally, Newland had a working stock of fifty mules and horses as well. Outbuildings were typical of a large farm and included barns, stables, corrals and bunk houses for the ranch hands. Originally, domestic water came from an artesian spring near the modern intersection of Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue. Later a well was drilled behind the house and water stored in the water tower which is still there. Kerosene was used for lamps. Wood, much of it gathered from the swamp land, was used for cooking in the early days. Modern utilities were installed as they became available because Huntington Beach had electric power by 1906.

The house, itself, was built on an ancient, long deserted Indian Village. In the 1930's the WPA (Works Progress Administration) conducted an archaeological investigation of the mesa and removed many of the artifacts contained on the site. Later excavations have uncovered cog stones, shells and bone which were carbon dated to 5000 B.C. Because of the treasure of antiquities the site represents, the grounds are designated as an Orange County archaeological site.

Described in 1899 as a "modern nine-room two-story cottage," the farm dwelling remains as one of the few examples of late Victorian architecture in Huntington Beach. Through the efforts of a dedicated historical society, it has been carefully restored to its appearance in the early century, and was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- Modjeska Madame Helena Modjeska was an opera singer in the late 1800's who joined the Polish colony in Anaheim in 1876. Ten years later her large estate in the Santa Ana Mountains was started. This estate still stands, ½ mile from the end of Modjeska Canyon Road (not far from Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary).
- Murdy The Murdy family had extensive property in Wintersburg (now Huntington Beach) for farming. During the 1960's he was a State Senator.
- Rochester In 1909 James Rochester moved to Orange County from New York. He is very well known for his fine engravings, a profession which he had until serious eye strain forced him to retire. He built a two-story house at 18th and Newport in Newport Beach.
- Newland Huntington Beach Pioneer William Taylor Newland farmed 1000 acres of land he purchased from Abel Stearns, part of a Spanish land grant. In 1898, he built the Newland House near Beach Blvd. and Adams Avenue, the oldest house in the city. In 1976, this house was declared a historical site, and restoration of the building and grounds were started.
- Segerstrom The Segerstrom family was one of the major land owners in Costa Mesa. They presented the Estancia adobe as a gift to the City of Costa Mesa.
- Shipley Donald D. Shipley is an active conservationist, and was a member of Huntington Beach City Council from 1964-1976. He supported parks development and environmental concerns. Shipley Nature Center is named after him.
- Slater William F. Slater - extensive farming property in Wintersburg, now Huntington Beach, in the early 1900's.
- Spencer Carl Spencer donated land in Costa Mesa for the Women's Club and for the library. He also donated several thousand books. He started the Costa Mesa Boys Club.
- Spurgeon In 1869, William L.H. Spurgeon, a storekeeper, was the founder of the City of Santa Ana.
- Talbert Thomas Talbert was an Orange County pioneer, who wrote, "This section of the country along the coast between Long Beach and Newport Beach, south of Westminster, was one of the greatest natural habitats for wildlife and game birds in the world."
- Warner E. G. Warner was a big rancher in Orange County, and was a noteworthy member of the Santa Ana City Council for many years

- Clark W. A. Clark was a senator from Montana who built the first sugar beet factories in Orange County, in Los Alamitos in 1896, and later in Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, and Anaheim.
- George H. Clark from Chicago bought acreage and built a three-story mansion for \$22,000 on Baker Street. His family included prominent members of the county for decades. Their mansion burned down Christmas Day in 1953.
- A. B. Clark in 1890 was the first to wrap choice citrus (from the groves in Anaheim) in tissue paper.
- Collins In 1903 W. S. Collins, President of the Newport Beach Company, purchased the Fairview Hotel and Mineral Hot Springs. He converted the area to a great health and pleasure resort, but it was never the success he envisioned.
- Dana Richard Henry Dana, author of Two Years Before the Mast visited the Orange County coast near San Juan Capistrano (now Dana Harbor) in 1835 aboard his ship the Pilgrim.
- Davis In 1921 Grant Davis opened Costa Mesa's first barber shop and soda fountain
- Disney Disneyland, the major tourist attraction in Orange County, was opened in Anaheim in 1955. The peak visitor period occurred in 1970 with 10.2 million people. This entertainment center was created by Walt Disney, movie cartoonist, film producer, creator of Mickey Mouse.
- Edwards The E.E. Edwards family were early settlers. Colonel Edwards introduced the bill that created Orange County in 1889 (by the California State Legislature.)
- Ellis James S. Ellis bought some land and farm implements from the first settlement on the Irvine Ranch. Mrs. Ellis became known in the area for her greyhound dogs.
- Henley Ellis bought, in 1909, a model Buick, the second car in the Costa Mesa area. This car was entered in the 1913 Los Angeles to Phoenix race.
- Gibson Donald Gibson came into Orange County in 1919 and purchased one of the Fairview Farms 10-acre tracts in the vicinity of what is now the Wienerschnitzel Restaurant on the corner of Harbor and 19th in Costa Mesa. Gibson was both a county road grader and a service station attendant.
- Gisler Swiss immigrant Samuel Gisler was a dairyman and rancher in the outskirts of Huntington Beach. He was considered a most satisfactory and profitable rancher, raising excellent sugar beets. He was the father of Ernie Gisler, later mayor of Huntington Beach.

### POPULATION SURGE

In 1959, the Municipal Trailer Park finally closed down, a sad day for many; but 1959 was also the year the city held it's first surfing competition.

When 1960 rolled around, the population of the city was a mere 11,492, but by 1970 the population had jumped to 115,960. Most of this can be attributed to annexation. But many others were moving to Huntington Beach from all over, and new housing developments sprung up all over Huntington Beach, including developments in Huntington Harbour.

For years, a section of beach west of the city had been overrun by campers and squatters who did little to maintain the beach; as a result the area became littered with bottles and discarded cans and assumed the dubious title of "Tin Can Beach". In 1961, the state once again moved in. They bought the land, removed the litter, and created Bolsa Chica State Beach.

In October 1966, a fire destroyed a large portion of the Pav-A-Lon. From the city's humble beginning, the Pav-A-Lon, located next to the pier, had been the locale for many of the city's major events, including the famous Twin Contest. Later, when it was rebuilt, the Pav-A-Lon was turned into The Fisherman Restaurant; a few years later it was renamed Maxwell's. About the same time, Golden West Community College opened it's doors.

Now that the city had grown in size and population, it became necessary for the city to provide services for it's citizens. As a result, in the early part of the 1970's, the city took some of it's land and developed it into Central Park. The park was officially dedicated in June 1974. The Central Library opened it's doors in 1975.

Mother nature was unkind to the city in the 80's. Having had portions of the pier destroyed during storms in 1912 and 1939, the 80's saw the pier damaged not once but twice.

But there was also good news. In October 1985, the National Register of Historical Places designated the Newland House as a historical site. Two years later, in August 1987, three buildings belonging to the Worthy family were designated as historical sites.

At the end of the 1980's, the city began a remodeling project of old downtown, especially the area near Main and Pacific Coast Highway. In 1990, construction on the Pierside Pavilion was completed. The Pavilion was the first major building to be finished under the redevelopment project of old downtown.

In 1990 Huntington Beach opened a surfing museum to pay homage to the riders of the waves. For many in Huntington Beach, surfing is a way of life. Founded by Natalie Kotsch, the International Surfing Museum contains photos, memorabilia, and art-work depicting the history of surfing. The museum is located at 411 Olive Avenue.

So now, 1996, Huntington Beach approaches a new century, nearly a century of progress behind it. This much is clear: gimmicks are no longer necessary to make people want to come here.

It was about that same time that the city - struggling financially - sold property to an encyclopedia company that used the land as a promotional gimmick.

On February 17, 1909, the town of Huntington Beach was finally incorporated; Ed Manning became the City's first mayor, the first school was built, and the population - spread over 3.57 square miles - was 915.

In 1910, the Huntington Beach Company built the famous Salt Water Plunge at the foot of the pier. The plunge gave the citizens a place to gather and have fun.

In Huntington Beach, growth continued but the economy needed a boost. The city started inviting new businesses into the area. One such company was the Holly Sugar plant. Built in 1911, the plant soon became one of the city's largest employers. By 1914, there were more than 300 people working in the sugar plant.

In an attempt to help the new city grow, the Huntington Beach Co. began selling lots and farm acreage. By the end of 1915, you could buy a small lot for \$250; farm land started at about \$500 an acre. By 1918, the city was forced to hold public land auction just to stay out of debt.

Soon, however, the complexion and fortunes of Huntington Beach would change forever.

### THE OIL BOOM

In 1919, Standard Oil Company leased some land from the Huntington Beach Co. and soon, started drilling for oil. In August 1920, the well produced oil and before long, more than 90 barrels a day were being produced. With this new found industry, oil wells began springing up everywhere. As if overnight, the population of the city tripled.

When oil was discovered in Huntington Beach, it came as a pleasant and welcome surprise to many people who didn't even live in Huntington Beach. All those people who had received the free encyclopedia lots, almost two decades earlier, were now sought after by those wanting to drill on the lots. Owners leased their lots to drillers, then sat back and collected the profits. Many of the lot owners were making a hundred dollars a month from their lot, without setting foot in Huntington Beach.

Albert Watkins, whose family moved to Huntington Beach in 1921, recalls what it was like back then. "You couldn't, in 1921, find a house to rent in Huntington Beach because the oil boom had started," he was saying a few weeks ago. "We lived in a tent with a wood floor."

As the oil well industry was growing, the people of Huntington Beach took advantage of their newfound fame. A national ad campaign brought in thousands of new people hoping to get rich from oil. Land areas the size of a house lot were leased to new oil companies. But soon most of the field were explored and parceled out, leaving some companies rich and others bust. A smaller oil boom in 1926 brought more profits.

During the oil boom years of the 20's, the city developed the surrounding territory near the beach. In 1925, Pacific Coast Highway was built, giving the people better access to the beautiful beach. About the same time, the city put a campground area on the beach. They leased property from the Huntington Beach Company installed restrooms, and set up picnic tables. The camp ground stretched from Lake Street to Beach Boulevard.

There were also plenty of bargains to be found in this growing city. Men could shop at a local clothiers and buy a Palm Beach suit for only \$10, while a local grocery store sold pot roast for 15 cents a pound.

When the 30's started, oil was discovered off shore, below the ocean floor. In a successful attempt to preserve the beaches, a technique known as slant drilling was developed to reach the oil from land.

## THE MUNICIPAL TRAILER PARK HOW IT BEGAN AND ENDED

By: Alicia M. Wentworth, City Historian

In the early years before and after 1920, there was a lot of camping on the beach within the city coastal limits. During the oil boom days, there were hundreds of oil workers who couldn't get a place to stay and they had to rent rooms by the shift. As many as three people would sleep in the same bed because of the shortage of rooms in Huntington Beach. The bluff area that existed at that time came close to the pier and the beach was covered with cardboard shacks. Also, used were World War I Army tents. The beach was covered with these tents and people lived and slept in them for a number of years.

A little later, people wanted a place to camp. In the mid 1920's, the city leased beach property from the Huntington Beach Company. It ran south from Lake Street, "A" Street, along the railroad tracks, (along Pacific Coast Highway) to Beach Boulevard. The city put in a campground with rest rooms and picnic facilities so the campers could pitch tents and stay there. It was free at that time because a minimum of maintenance was required, as it was only used in the summertime. Bill Ebert bought the city's interest to that trailer park and added small summer cottages on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway.

After 1930, people began converting various types of trucks into campers and trailers, camp cars, and sleeping trailers. This created the need for a Municipal Trailer Park. The city allowed people to bring campers and trailers into the park. This was the first trailer park set up for this purpose. There was also the need for a place for people to camp. The people camping on the beach had no rest room facilities. The first of the beach-side facilities, Section A, ran from "A" Street northwest about 400 feet. They put in a used building to serve as a store and office. Harry Hopkins was the first manager until 1934. As the Municipal Trailer Park was enlarged, Jack Killian was the manager and in charge of its' expansion from 400 feet to 2,600 feet in length, extending to Highway 39 (then Hampshire, now Beach Boulevard). There were 147 spaces on the ocean-side, and 124 spaces on the highway side of the trailer park road. Also included was cabana space and spaces to park cars. Each of the six sections, A through F, had large restrooms and shower facilities. A home for the manager was also built in Section C, and a small private office at the entrance, which was at non-existent "A" street (a Street on paper only). The house was later moved to Huntington Street near the Water Warehouse.

Trailer and beach tent space was rented out in the summer and the trailer park was rented year round. Large World War II Army tents with floors were erected on the beach and portable cooking and sleeping facilities were built in by the tenants. Many trailerites and summer campers became permanent residents of Huntington Beach, including myself. I came west in 1947 with my sister, brother-in-law, one niece, and two nephews. We lived there for nine months and it was a great experience of my early life in Huntington Beach, an experience I will always remember. The old Spanton Manor trailer with cabana built on, can be seen in a 1947 aerial photograph on file in the city' historical records.

The managers after Jack Killian, were Ralph St. Clair from 1945 to 1948, Ray Teale, Sr. from 1948 to 1949, and Lem Barry from 1949 to its demise to the beach Parking Authority in December 1959.

One fact that will always remain in my mind, which today seems unreal, is that in May, 1947, when we arrived. The beach side trailer spaces rented for \$20 per month. For that price, many folks from Pasadena, Hollywood, and other inland communities left their trailers year round and would spend weekends at the beach.

The Municipal Trailer Park was the first and largest of its kind in the country; one of past memories of this great city, and a part of local history unknown to many.

the Newland House, at Beach Boulevard and Adams Street, the city boasts another National Register complex, the Helme-Worthy buildings. These are still in family hands and are located at 6th and Walnut Streets. They include a rare Western False Front commercial building (circa 1904) and an older farm house moved on site in 1903. The builder, Matthew Helme, was a furniture store owner, and early member of the Board of Trustees. Huntington Beach owes much of its municipal development to his concept of a modern city.

Other early settlers include Charles Warner, a member of the first Board of Trustees, whose home stands at 10th and Walnut. His son, Willis, was a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Outstanding, also, was Tom Talbert, member of the County Board of Supervisors, a long time city booster. His memoirs represent the bulk of early history available about the coastal region and his residence is at 6th and Pacific Coast Highway.

The fledgling city capitalized on its vast stretch of beach as a recreation site from the very beginning. In fact, when the Huntington Beach Company took over the development in 1903, one of the first things they did was erect a long wooden pier out into the surf for fishing and strolling. The present concrete pier was dedicated in 1914 and has achieved world wide recognition as a fine surfing location. For a number of years, the Ocean Pacific Surfing Championships have taken place here. Time has taken its toll of the under structure of this venerable pier and plans are being made now to replace it as new development occurs along side, on the beach below.

Before the surfing event began, at least one other convention was a yearly activity. During the 1940's and 1950's there was a state wide convention of twins held at the pier and adjoining pavillion each fall. There were prizes for the best looking pair, the most look alike, etc., etc. This, too, was quite popular since over 300 pair of twins took part in the 1955 festivities.

Huntington Beach developed early as an industrial area, dependent on the abundant raw materials present around it. The first of the industrial sites was the Rainey Tile Co., which manufactured industrial tile used to drain the agricultural fields of the region. It, and another tile company, La Bolsa, were located northeast of town, at a rich clay deposit near the railroad.

## HUNTINGTON BEACH - THE HISTORIC PAST

1800 - 1950

By: Barbara Milkovich

In prehistoric times, the Huntington Beach region was inhabited by natives we have come to call Gabrielinos, a name derived from the Mission San Gabriel. This civilization was uniquely adapted to life along the coast, and had a number of settlements here, particularly along the bluff line at the Bolsa Chica. Several local archeological sites have been identified, including some with human remains.

During the Spanish and Mexican periods, the area that would become Huntington Beach was rancho land. First, it was contained in the great Las Bolsas Rancho, granted to Manuel Nieto before 1800. Later, part of it was divided as the Rancho Bolsa Chica. Like so much of the land surrounding these ranchos, these two were used for range land. The first American settlers who lived on the inland edges of the ranchos discovered that the beach below the prominent bluff had a vast deposit of shell, so would go there to gather shell as a livestock feed supplement. The beach, was called Shell Beach for several years before urban development began.

During the 1870's and 1880's, the boundaries of the Rancho Las Bolsas and that of the Rancho Santa Ana de Santiago were challenged by settlers who felt that some of the land was not part of either rancho. Until the dispute was finally settled, ownership was risky, so the area did not become legally inhabited as fast as other parts of Orange County. Squatters were a fact of life on the rich marshy land, and because one of them, Isaac Hickey, a preacher, lived in the marshy area southeast of the bluff, it became known as Gospel Swamp.

To the northwest of the bluff lay the Bolsa Chica, a salt water marsh, and to the southeast of it, the delta of the Santa Ana river. Because of the uplifts that mark its geology, Huntington Beach is one of the richest oil fields in California, and was the first of the great Los Angeles fields to be developed in the 1920's.